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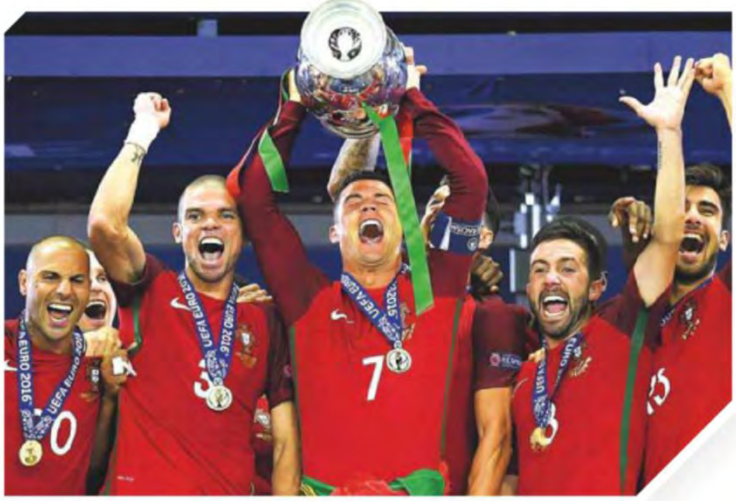

Special preview

BRAZIL'S OLYMPIC DREAM

COPA AMERICA

MESSI'S COPA COP-OUT

End of the road for Leo and Argentina?

FOR THE RECORD

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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

SAINT-DENIS....Portugal's Eder celebrates with team-mates after scoring the only goal of the Euro 2016 Final against hosts France

TOULOUSE...Belgium's Michy Batshuayi celebrates his goal in a 4-0 win against Hungary

LENS...Fabian Schar (no22) of Switzerland scores his team's first goal against Albania

PARIS...supporters enjoy the ambience at an-eve-of-tournament concert by David Guetta in the fan zone near the Eiffel Tower

LILLE...Wales' Gareth Bale celebrates after the quarter-final win against Belgium

SAINT-DENIS...Ari Skulason holds his baby as Iceland celebrate beating Austria to qualify for the round of 16

BORDEAUX...Spain defender Sergio Ramos reacts after the group defeat to Croatia

MARSEILLE...a Hungarian fan lets off a flare

PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE

To see more of the best photos from the month, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the images by logging on to http://po.st/wNeF6X

FROM THE EDITOR

This past month, there have been plenty of twists and turns in the long-running soap opera that is the rivalry between the world's two best footballers, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

While Ronaldo was busy with Portugal's victorious Euro 2016 campaign (page 18), so Messi was experiencing the pain of Argentina's defeat to Chile at the Copa America (page 66) – a defeat so painful that it prompted his retirement from international football.

Just as one man was rejecting the international game, the other was demonstrating just how important his national team are to his personal status. Ronaldo did not need Portugal's success in France to confirm his "greatness" but trophies are the currency with which history judges players.

> Iceland and Wales provided a reminder of why international football captivates so many people

The quality of the football at these Euros will be debated for many years. If they showed us anything it was the value of teamwork and collective endeavour over individual brilliance. The stories of Iceland and Wales resonated with people around the world and provided a reminder of why international football still captivates so many people. Messi knows that – and that is why we can remain hopeful that he will be persuaded to once again wear the colours of Argentina at a World Cup.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1 Portugal win Euro 2016 ..... page 18
2 Chile win the Copa Centenario ..... page 66
3 Messi handed suspended jail sentence ..... page 8
4 Iceland reach Euro quarter-finals ..... page 61
5 Wales reach Euro semi-finals ..... page 62
6 Inquest into England's failure in France begins ..... page 16
7 France beat Germany in epic semi-final ..... page 63
8 Real Madrid buy Alvaro Morata back from Juventus ..... page 12
9 Brazil start as favourites at the Rio Olympics ..... page 76
10 Guinea-Bissau qualify for African Nations Cup ..... page 84

Trial...Lionel Messi in court

SPAIN

Messi handed suspended jail sentence for tax offences

Barcelona sparked a social media storm by urging fans to support Lionel Messi after he and his father were handed 21-month jail sentences for tax evasion to the tune of €4.1 million, between 2007 and 2009.

Barcelona and Argentina's World Player of the Year will not see the inside of a prison cell even if he should fail with any appeal. Under the Spanish system, prison terms of less than two years can be suspended and served on probation. The pair must also agree a payback deal over the use of

"I must speak with them, hug them and kick their asses"

New Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola on how he plans to deal with his players

tax havens in Belize and Uruguay to conceal image rights earnings.

Messi, when called to give evidence, stated that he knew nothing about the management and investment of his multi-million earnings because he had concentrated solely on playing the game itself (and posing every now and again for advertisements and promotional films for his sponsors). This was all left to his father.

A similar scenario had been played out in the case of Neymar, with the responsibility for laundering, hiding and shifting monies hither and thither ultimately laid at the door of his father, too.

Neymar, like Messi, pleaded personal innocence, saying: "My father deals with everything outside of the pitch and I have complete confidence in him.

"I am lucky to have my father looking after those things, working at my side, so I can focus on playing football."

Until it all goes wrong.

Keir Radnedge

HEROES & VILLAINS

Goal...Eder was an unlikely star in France this summer

EDER

The former Braga striker, who spent last season on loan at French club Lille after failing to make an impact at Swansea City, was the unlikely goalscoring hero for Portugal in the Final of Euro 2016

EDUARDO VARGAS

Became only the second Chilean to score four goals in a Copa America match. He achieved it 90 years after the first, David Arellano, in the 7-0 win against Mexico.

GABOR KIRALY

At 40 years and 74 days old, the Hungary goalkeeper eclipsed Lothar Matthaus and became the oldest player in European Championship history.

IRISH FANS

Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, awarded the Grand Vermeil medal to Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland supporters for their sportsmanship during the Euros. "Their behaviour was extremely positive, joyful," said the mayor. "They were exemplary. We wanted to say thanks." Previous recipients of the Grand Vermeil medal include jazz pianist Herbie Hancock and nine-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal.

Sporting...fans receive their award in Paris

LUIS SEIJAS

The Venezuelan tried a "Panenka" penalty chip against Argentina in the quarter-final of the Copa America only to dink it straight into the hands of goalkeeper Sergio Romero.

Embarrassing...Luis Seijas tries a "Panenka" penalty

FRANK FABRA

The Colombian wing-back became the first player in the history of the Copa America to score for both teams in a single game when he netted at the right end and the wrong end in the 3-2 defeat to Costa Rica.

Own goal...Frank Fabra of Colombia

ELENA DUTA

The Romanian public prosecutor charged the doctor with the manslaughter of Patrick Ekeng after the emergency medical specialist in the ambulance that took the former Cameroon midfielder to hospital made no attempt to resuscitate the player. The 26-year-old collapsed during a league match while playing for Dinamo Bucharest in May and died of heart failure.

ALEKSANDR KOKORIN & PAVEL MAMAEV

After a video emerged of the pair at a party in Monaco following Russia's Euro 2016 exit, the players – who play their club football with Zenit and Krasnodar respectively – were fined and demoted to reserve teams.

"When he came on he told me he would score. The ugly duckling went and scored. Now he's a beautiful swan"

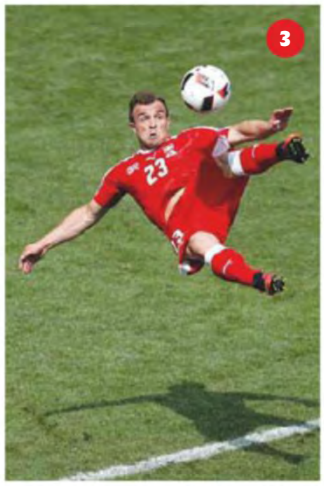
Portugal coach Fernando Santos (left) on Euro 2016 Final goalscorer Eder

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/rjqKoG

1 LIONEL MESSI
Argentina v USA
Fantastic free-kick that was whipped over the wall and into the far top corner.

2 CRISTIANO RONALDO
Portugal v Hungary
Meets a cross from Joao Mario and backheels it from the edge of the six-yard area past the Hungarian keeper.



3 XHERDAN SHAQIRI
Switzerland v Poland
Acrobatic bicycle kick from outside the penalty area.

4 ALEXIS ROJAS
Sporting Cristal v Comerciantes Unidos
Gives the covering defender the runaround before delicately chipping the ball over the keeper in a Peruvian league game.

5 HAL ROBSON-KANU
Wales v Belgium
Pulls off a Cruyff-turn to wrong-foot three defenders, before slotting home.

6 EMANUELE GIACCHERINI
Italy v Belgium
A fantastic long pass out of defence by Leonardo Bonucci is controlled and dispatched superbly by Giaccherini.

WINNERS

PORTUGAL
Won their first-ever major trophy thanks to Eder's injury-time winner in the Euro Final.

ICELAND
Became the smallest country ever to reach the knockout stage of a major tournament finals.

CHILE
Retained the Copa America, beating Argentina on penalties in the Final for a second successive year.

LOSERS

MEXICO
Were routed 7-0 by Chile in the quarter-finals of the Copa America.

BRAZIL
Were knocked out of the Copa America at the group stage after losing to Peru for the first time in 31 years.

EZEQUIEL LAVEZZI
The striker fell over an advertising board while playing for Argentina against the United States and missed the Copa America Final with a broken elbow.

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"During his three years at the club, Laurent Blanc won 11 trophies, including two national quadruples, and left a significant mark on the great history of Paris Saint-Germain"

A club statement announcing the sacking of Laurent Blanc, who reportedly received a £17m pay-off

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Appointments, sackings and loans

IN

Incredible...Hulk

EUROPE

UNAI EMERY left Sevilla to take over from **LAURENT BLANC** at PSG. He was replaced at the Spanish club by Chile's 2015 Copa America-winning coach **JORGE SAMPAOLI**. Granada appointed **PACO JEMEZ**, who was relegated from La Liga with Rayo Vallecano last season.

CLAUDE PUEL, who left French side Nice at the end of last season, was named manager of Premier League club Southampton.

Former Derby County boss **PAUL CLEMENT** was appointed Carlo Ancelotti's assistant at Bayern Munich. The pair have previously worked together at Chelsea, Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain.

VINCENZO MONTELLA left Sampdoria for Milan and was replaced by **MARCO GIAMPAOLO**, who left Empoli in May. **GIAN PIERO GASPERINI** swapped Genoa for Atalanta. **IVAN JURIC**, who led Crotone to promotion, took over at Genoa. **DAVIDE NICOLA** replaced him at the Serie A newcomers.

Spaniard **VICTOR SANCHEZ** was appointed successor to Marco Silva, who resigned as coach of Greek champions Olympiakos.

SOUTH AMERICA

TITE left Corinthians and replaced Dunga as coach of Brazil following the *Selecao*'s Copa America failure.

Former Manchester United and Real Madrid defender **GABRIEL HEINZE** was appointed coach of Argentinian second-tier side Argentinos Juniors.

AFRICA

Serb coach **MILOVAN RAJEVAC** took charge of Algeria's national side, following **CHRISTIAN GOURCUFF**'s resignation in April.

SAMSON UNUANEL replaced Paul Aigbogun as coach of Nigerian side Enyimba.

ASIA

Chinese Super League side Shanghai SIPG paid an Asian record transfer fee of €55.8m to sign Brazil striker **HULK** from Russian side Zenit. Ex-Milan coach **CLARENCE SEEDORF** took charge of second-tier Shenzhen.

HWANG SUN-HONG was appointed coach of South Korean side Seoul. He replaces **CHOI YONG-SOO**, who left for Chinese Super League club Jiangsu Suning.

GUSTAVO MATOSAS, who led Club America to CONCACAF Champions League success in 2015, left Mexican side Atlas to take charge of Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal.

Uruguayan **GERARDO PELUSSO** replaced Gianfranco Zola as coach of Qatari side Al Arabi.

Goalkeeper **LIAM REDDY** joined Perth Glory and became the first player to sign for seven different A-League clubs.

AFC Cup quarter-finalists Bengaluru of India appointed a new coach in Spaniard **ALBERT ROCA**, a former assistant at Barcelona and most recently in charge of El Salvador's national team.

Former Adelaide United boss **JOSEP GOMBAU** was named coach of Australia's under-23 side.

Hodgson heads list of Euro casualties

Poor performances at the European Championship cost several coaches their job, with England's **ROY HODGSON** (above), **ANGHEL IORDANESCU** (Romania – to be replaced by Christoph Daum), **LEONID SLUTSKY** (Russia) and **VICENTE DEL BOSQUE** (Spain) all departing. **PAVEL VRBA** left the Czech Republic to take over at Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala.

OUT

SOUTH AMERICA

GERARDO MARTINO resigned as Argentina's national coach after losing to Chile in the Final of the Copa America for a second time. **JULIO CESAR BALDIVIESO** was sacked by Bolivia and **RAMON DIAZ** quit as Paraguay coach.

CONCACAF

MLS club Orlando City sacked long-serving coach **ADRIAN HEATH** after just two wins in 12 matches.

AFRICA

Six months before they host the African Nations Cup, Gabon sacked **JORGE COSTA,** who was reported to be the best-paid coach in Africa.

Malawi sacked coach **ERNEST MTAWALI** after an early exit from the COSAFA Cup in Namibia.

Off...Adrian Heath

Back...Alvaro Morata

Morata heads back to Madrid

Real Madrid exercised their buy-back clause and re-signed Juventus striker **ALVARO MORATA** for a fee reported to be up to €30million. For all the other signings in Europe's top five leagues, go to **www.worldsoccer.com**

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

From beautiful to dreadful in just 20 days

Ugly...Chile's Gary Medel has to be restrained by referee Heber Lopes during a fractious Copa America Final

There has to be something seriously wrong with a sport that can be sublimely beautiful to watch one moment, but change itself into dismaying ugliness a short time later. That is what happened in the 2016 Copa America, and Argentina and Chile were the culprits.

Having delighted everyone with a festival of brilliant football in their first round game in California – a 2-1 win for Argentina – the same two sides met again in the Final, 20 days later. New Jersey was warm and sunny, the fans were lively and friendly, and the 80,000-seat stadium was sold out. Everything seemed set for a memorable evening.

But what we got was a 0-0 overtime game of bewildering banality. A match of relentless anti-soccer that, in 120 minutes, produced no goals (and only five shots on target), eight cards, including two reds, and all-but-inevitably ended in football's miserable apology for a tie-breaker: the shoot-out.

What caused this flight from the Beautiful Game? Of course, the referee, Brazil's Heber Lopes, was heavily criticised, but that was nonsense. Surrounded by two teams intent on finding ways of stopping each other from playing, he did what he could. Chile, certainly, were the chief culprits. They had lost the first game and were not about to fail again. And now they had Lionel Messi – he did not play in the group match – to deal with.

Marcelo Diaz was appointed to stifle Messi and within half an hour he had committed two bad physical fouls on the Argentinian. Lopes had the guts to send him off in the first half so could hardly be accused of not clamping down.

That a destructive sullenness hung over the game from start to finish was not the referee's fault. Nor does it make much sense to blame the "pressure of a Final" – not when you are dealing with two of the world's best teams, who should surely know how to handle that.

Tactics? Definitely. So we can blame the coaches? Possibly – but the problem goes deeper. Coaches will use whichever tactics look like eliciting a win. They will also use whichever tactics the game permits them to use. The tactics used by Chile, and the response from Argentina, were not in violation of the rules; they simply reflected what has become acceptable in the sport.

And so we arrive at the real villains in this unhappy story: FIFA and, more specifically, the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

IFAB poses pompously as "the guardian of the Laws of the Game" yet has disastrous misunderstanding of what it should be doing. Treating the rules as almost sacrosanct, IFAB has become a narrow-minded group that totally fails to safeguard the game. And make no mistake, it is the game – not the rules – that is in need of protection.

Reluctant to change laws that seem to have been chiselled into stone more than 100 years ago, IFAB is inevitably out of touch with how things are panning out on the playing field. It *never* gives thought to modern developments. And the most insidious of those developments is the relentless drift of the sport into a primarily defensive, low-scoring game.

A sport in which just one goal is more than likely to decide matters is a sport that puts far too much pressure on its referees and a sport that nourishes defensive tactics. Which are, of course, negative and destructive.

Does IFAB care about that? No, it does not. It has *never* been heard to come up with suggestions for rule changes that would encourage an open, flowing, goalscoring style. IFAB's silence has allowed anti-football tactics and negative attitudes to take root in the game.

Chile brought high-pressure harassment – which had wiped out Mexico in the last eight – to the Final. But Argentina were not to be bullied. As they responded, a physical, mean-spirited game that was borderline legal took over.

> Make no mistake: it is the game, not the rules, that needs protection

And so to the shoot-out, which annointed Messi as the arch-villain for making a hash of his kick. It also ensured that Chile's goalkeeper, Claudio Bravo, got the man of the match award – for the one save he made during the shoot-out. Two anti-football triumphs. A total travesty.

While such negativity is allowed to flourish, it pretty much guarantees that there'll be plenty more big-tournament Finals that look more like the Ugly Game, than its Beautiful counterpart.

Yes, there is something seriously wrong at the heart of football. WS

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

24 teams are here to stay

Newcomers... Albania (in dark kit) produced a solid display

Should the finals of major championships serve as the best possible showcase for football or should they serve the financial and political interests of federations and officials?

While the expansion to a 24-team format at Euro 2016 contributed to a lowering of quality, UEFA officials countered that it had raised interest in the qualifying competition. However, for the first time, the goals-per-game average in the group stage at the finals dropped below two per match.

"I think the tournament was very competitive and we were very pleased with the quality of play," argued UEFA's acting general-secretary, Theodore Theodoridis. "There were some incredible fixtures.

"Of course, in a tournament with 51 matches, you will not see games for every taste, but I think the level of the tournament was very high. You also have to consider the qualifiers as well as the final tournament, and we think, overall, it was a big success...we already have 24 teams agreed for 2020. Of course, 2024 is wide open and it's a very interesting discussion.

"But you have to consider the overall competition, which means not only the finals but the qualifying competition. A format of 32 teams would kill the qualifiers."

> "A format of 32 teams would kill the qualifiers"

Giorgio Marchetti, UEFA's competitions director, says the lower quality and goals ratio had been balanced by the change gained in competitive balance from admitting more teams to the finals.

He said: "We observed the matches as being more competitive than ever. The newcomers were the surprise. None of them ended the group in last position. Only Albania did not qualify for the second round and even they finished third in their group."

Maintaining the 24-team format should not prevent UEFA from tweaking the regulations. The use of mutual results as a first separation criterion for teams level on points needs to be replaced by goal difference – as in most leagues (except the Champions League).

At Euro 2016, Ukraine's third group match – a 1-0 defeat by Poland – was dead as far as they were concerned. If goal difference had been the first fall-back then they would have had something to play for. Dead matches also open up possibilities for match-fixing.

If UEFA believes in "zero tolerance" – a cliche with about as much credibility as words such as "transparency" and "legacy" – then this, at least, should be addressed. Four years should be enough time to get it right.

Absent Platini praised by his pals

Michel Platini won the European Championship in 1984 for France with his inspirational football and his nine goals, and the respect garnered as a player still held him in good stead during Euro 2016, from which he was physically absent.

Platini, banned for eight then six then four years for pocketing the "disloyal" $2million from FIFA on Sepp Blatter's say-so, had an open invitation from UEFA to attend whatever matches he chose. Instead, depressed by the entire farrago, he barely watched even on TV.

He continues as president of UEFA in title and will remain so until his successor is elected on September 14 at an extraordinary congress in Athens. But while he harbours thoughts of attending to make a valedictory speech, the lawyers will almost certainly advise both him and UEFA that this is out of the question.

Angel Maria Villar, senior vice-president who stood in for Platini in presenting the various end-of-term trophies, was specific while delivering his end-of-Euro address at a news conference. Having thanked everyone who had made Euro 2016 a success – from volunteers to officials to players to even the media – Villar concluded: "This long list of 'thank-yous' would not be complete without mentioning the tournament's one major absentee.

"France's hosting of UEFA Euro 2016 is down to one man: Michel Platini.

"I'm sure the French people know that. Michel can be proud – very proud – of his Euro. He is in all of our thoughts today and we are grateful to him."

Acting general-secretary Theodore

Theodoridis chipped in later: "Without his vision and very strong support for five years, this tournament could never have been such a success."

Even Benny Alon, the United States-based tickets dealer who helped bring down Jerome Valcke, launched a "Platini is Innocent" bandwagon in the apparent hope that a wave of public support might wash "Platoche" up on the shores of the Final in the Stade de France. To no avail.

Behind the scenes, meanwhile, the contenders for his succession were consulting and plotting.

Slovenia's Aleksander Ceferin was assured he had the old Warsaw Pact federations plus the Nordic nations in his corner, north-western Europe was standing behind Dutchman Michael Van Praag, and even Villar was considering standing himself.

In the latter's case, becoming UEFA president offers the prospect of a neat body swerve out of the Spanish federation hot seat at a time when his enemies – Sports Council president Miguel Calderon and Liga CEO Javier Tebas – are closing in.

Further twists – not to mention possible compromise candidates – were distinctly possible before the candidacy deadline of July 20.

Praise...Theodore Theodoridis

Forgotten... Gianni Infantino

Infantino crosses to FIFA's dark side

Gianni Infantino took time out from shuffling the deckchairs at FIFA to attend the Euro 2016 Final. Six months earlier he would have been expecting to have been running the show as general-secretary of UEFA. Then, of course, came the Blatter/Platini debacle and the Swiss-Italian lawyer was parachuted into the maelstrom of world federation politics.

Not that anyone appeared to remember his role in preparing the ground for Euro 2016 as Infantino was not mentioned among all the votes of thanks handed out by the great and the good at UEFA. It was as if he had crossed to the dark side.

Certainly, Infantino has been busy, with appointments to his presidential office: new secretary-general Fatma Samoura and a new audit and compliance chairman in Slovene accountancy specialist Tomaz Vesel. More changes in personnel are promised as the internal restructuring into "administration" and "football" sections continues.

Samoura made her first high-profile intervention, since her arrival from a United Nations posting in Nigeria, at the festivities surrounding the ticket-price announcement ahead of the 2018 World Cup and 2017 Confederations Cup. Again, there will be a lowest-price Category Four for home fans, while the top-price ticket for the Final has now burst through the $1,000 ceiling.

Vitaly Mutko, the multitasking Russian Football Union president – who is also the world's busiest sports minister, what with the Russian doping scandal – used the occasion to promise that crowd-control lessons had been learned from the Marseille mob violence.

Foreign fans coming to Russia for the 2018 World Cup, said Mutko, would find a land of safety, security and comfort.

BBC Radio football commentator Alan Green is one sceptic. He has already told his bosses that he has no intention of going to Russia, whether any of the home nations are there or not. WS

Lessons...Russian fan

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Hodgson's career nadir

Roy Hodgson is an old and valued friend of mine who, for me, should have had the England role after he had so ingenuously guided Switzerland to the World Cup finals in the USA in 1994. Alas, he didn't get it, and for all my admiration for his long and cosmopolitan career – not least with Sweden's Malmo – I have to say that he made a dismal job of managing England in France this time.

I asked him at the press conference which followed England's depressing, last-gasp win against a 10-man Portugal without Cristiano Ronaldo at Wembley in June, why Andros Townsend was not in the squad for France. The evasive reply was that he could take only 23 players. Yet Townsend, who has now joined Crystal Palace, had never let him down when picked for England and only recently had ripped to bits at Newcastle United, with the Magpies down to 10 men, that very Tottenham team which had rejected him.

Yet Raheem Sterling, that fragile if hugely expensive figure, was picked to go, although Manchester City had kept him on the bench for weeks. So was the faded James Milner, who so absurdly was brought off the bench as a substitute late in the first lamentable display against Russia, in an evident and negative attempt to hold on, in vain, to a 1-0 lead which had been secured against an elderly Russian central defence only from a free-kick.

Fragile...Raheem Sterling was ineffectual in France

Two ponderous Russian centre-backs, in a team devoid of its two key midfield players, were there to be taken. But Jamie Vardy, who would surely have been the ideal weapon with his tremendous pace, never got on. Neither did Daniel Sturridge; the pair of them at last being deployed in the second half of the next match, so narrowly won against Wales. Harry Kane had looked so obviously exhausted after his demanding season with Spurs, yet he would be there again in the last disastrous match against Iceland.

Wayne Rooney began the tournament brightly but was then bewilderingly left out against Slovakia in favour of Jack Wilshere, a greatly talented player but calamitously short of match practice. In goal, it became increasingly obvious that Joe Hart was suffering a crisis of confidence. He gave away that free-kick goal to Gareth Bale, and was all too achingly vulnerable, yet in he stayed to concede another dire goal against Iceland, in a match where playing three up front tended to force Sturridge out of the centre where he does most of his best work.

Sterling was inexplicably recalled for that last catastrophic match, but while he was hardly worse than anybody else – Rooney, of all people, being miserably ineffectual – it hardly seemed a logical selection in the circumstances.

Let me not go on. I still, as always, wish Roy well. His past achievements, not least with Fulham, speak absolutely for themselves. But this was surely the nadir of his managerial career.

Reflective...Roy Hodgson's record is excellent, but he had a dismal Euros

England's worst defeat? Not Iceland but USA in 1950

It's been written and said – and, predictably, all the more so after France had thrashed Iceland – that the Icelandic defeat was the worst of any England team. Of course it wasn't. Iceland had a number of seasoned professionals and had already distinguished itself in the qualifying rounds.

The USA team which met England in Belo Horizonte in the World Cup finals of 1950 was a job lot of part-timers.

Its skipper, Eddie McIlvenny, was a Scot who had been given, 18 months earlier, a free transfer by Wrexham of the Third Division North. Joe Gaetjens, the centre-forward, was a Haitian who was destined to perish in that benighted island, killed by the savage Tonton Macoute, but this would be his day. Joe Maca, the left-back, was a Belgian, while there was a clever, adroit inside-left in John Souza, who was from the Portuguese colony in Fall River where soccer flourished in obscurity. The team's resourceful manager was a Scot, Bill Jeffrey, who combined his coaching with teaching in the machine shop of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

He gave his team no chance at all against England, who could field an array of stars: Stan Mortensen and Wilf Mannion as inside-forwards were perhaps a little past their best, but still formidable; the ever elusive Tom Finney at outside-right; Billy Wright was right-half; Alf Ramsey, a future World Cup-winning manager, the right-back. Why should England tremble?

But, incredibly, sensationally, they did, and they lost to the solitary goal which Gaetjens would head from a cross by the wing-half Walter Bahr. A fluke? Bahr said that Gaetjens was often scoring that sort of goal, but England, who had spurned the primitive dressing rooms of Belo Horizonte for the luxuries of a nearby English gold mine, could not score at all.

It was hardly an excuse that Neil Franklin of Stoke City, long the team's elegant centre-half, had cried off, asserting that it was because his wife would soon be giving birth. In fact, he flew to Bogota in Colombia - then outside FIFA – where clubs such as Santa Fe could sign who they liked and Franklin was offered what at the time was the large sum of £50 a week. But the young Liverpool centre-half Laurie Hughes, though hardly as polished, was surely sufficient.

"If we'd played them again we'd have hammered them easy," he'd later tell me.

But they didn't, so they couldn't.

Giant-killer... USA goalscorer Joe Gaetjens is chaired off the pitch

Memories of 1958 as Wales rub salt into English wounds

Salt, alas, was rubbed into England and Roy Hodgson's wounds after their abject elimination from the European Championship. Wales gloriously reached the semi-finals while France made mincemeat of the Icelandic team which had humiliated the English.

This was beyond doubt the most glorious achievement in Wales's long participation in international football, and this time – by sharp contrast with the Swedish World Cup of 1958 – with Wales entering these finals purely on their merits.

Yet without wishing to be perverse, or to take an ounce of admiration away from this splendid Welsh team, I do not think it was as gifted as the side I saw lose so unluckily to Pele's Brazil in Gothenburg in the quarter-finals of 1958.

That Wales team slipped into the finals by the back door. Having gone out in the qualifiers, they were given a reprieve when the Afro-Asian nations refused to compete in the same pool as Israel. FIFA decreed that Israel must play-off before qualifying and Wales were all too happy to oblige.

They beat Israel, at home and away, and went on to equip themselves better in Sweden than any of the three other British teams – it was the only time all four had qualified for the World Cup finals. I still believe they could have beaten mighty Brazil had their star, big centre-forward John Charles, not been kicked out of the tournament in a play-off won against the malicious Hungarians. Early in the game against Brazil, several fine centres came across from the Welsh right, but big John was not there to convert them.

The following night I was lucky enough to go out drinking beer – I couldn't keep up – with several members of the Welsh team, including goalkeeper Jack Kelsey. They called themselves "The Big Five" and the exuberant spirit in the Welsh camp was coruscatingly different from the gloomy headquarters of the England team.

And what did it matter if nine of the current, gallant Wales squad were born in England? The goalscorers in Wales' 3-1 victory over Belgium in the quarter-finals were captain Ashley Williams, born in Wolverhampton; he of the Cruyff-turn gem, Hal Robson-Kanu, from Acton; and the header of that third sensational goal, Sam Vokes, born in Southampton.

All of them had better title to play for Wales than striker Tony Cascarino, as he later admitted, ever did for Ireland.

Ashley Williams...born in Wolverhampton, a leading light for Wales

> This was beyond doubt the most glorious achievement in Wales' long participation in international football

Previous...Wales (dark shirts) in action against Sweden at the 1958 World Cup

● Read Brian Glanville's exclusive online column at worldsoccer.com

PORTUGAL'S GREATEST NIGHT

Eder's extra-time goal was an exciting end to a lacklustre tournament, says *Gavin Hamilton*

More often than not, international tournaments get the Final – and the winners – they deserve.

Euro 2016 was no different, and it will be remembered as the tournament where collective obstinacy triumphed over individual brilliance. Where the Final was won by a team that could not beat Iceland, Austria or Hungary in the group stage. And the winning goal was scored by an out-of-favour striker who could not get off Swansea City's bench last season.

The Portuguese class of 2016 will not be hailed as a "golden generation". They were not the best team in the tournament; indeed, they were not even the best team in their opening-round group. Instead, they were the team who proved hardest to beat. The last men standing.

History will record Cristiano Ronaldo as the captain and figurehead of the Portugal side that won their first-ever ▸

On top...Renato Sanches (no 16) and his team-mates celebrate

16
NANI
17
EURO2016
FRANC

senior international title by beating France 1-0 in extra time at Stade de France. The Real Madrid *galactico* led the celebrations, yet he was a passenger on the night. A hefty challenge from Dimitri Payet had jarred his knee, forcing him to leave the pitch in tears after 25 minutes.

He had watched from the sidelines, his knee heavily strapped, as team-mates and coaching staff swarmed around Eder, the unlikely hero and scorer of the goal that secured an historic victory for Portugal. Eder had spent the second half of last season in France, on loan at Ligue 1 club Lille, and his season's nadir had come in January, when he failed to be called from the bench as Swansea lost an FA Cup tie to League Two side Oxford United.

Yet Eder typified the spirit that underpinned Portugal's victory. This was not a Portugal side that played beautiful attacking football, with tricky wingers and ball player magicians, as at Euro 96, Euro 2000 and Euro 2004. Instead, coach Fernando Santos re-invented Portugal in a defensive-minded, tactically astute way. The age-old problem that has dogged the *Selecao* – a lack of a goalscoring centre-forward – was solved by moving Ronaldo and Nani in from the wings. The team would play most of the tournament without wingers, with only Ricardo Quaresma used as a late substitute.

In midfield, the likes of Renato Sanches, William Carvalho, Joao Mario, Adrien Silva and Danilo would instead focus on containing the opposition. Their central aim would be to provide a defensive platform from which Ronaldo could star in what was probably going to be his international swansong.

> "When they don't try to play and just defend, defend, defend, this in my opinion shows a small mentality"
>
> **Cristiano Ronaldo, on Iceland**

In the group stage, Ronaldo's superstar pedigree began to show alarming signs of fraying around the edges. He was frustrated and mis-firing – a penalty blasted against an Austrian post and a goal disallowed for offside, and an ungracious dig at Iceland after they had taken a point against Portugal.

But when it mattered most, Ronaldo stepped up to be counted. He took the first penalty in the quarter-final shoot-out against Poland, in contrast to the 2012 semi-final against Spain, when he opted to take the fifth kick and ended up a spare part after his team-mates missed their kicks. And in the semi-final against Wales in Lyon, when pitched against Real Madrid team-mate Gareth Bale, he rose to the occasion, leaping above the Welsh defence to head home Portugal's opening goal.

Such exploits mean that Ronaldo, the greatest Portuguese player of his generation, can rightly claim to be the greatest of all time. Yet Portugal's triumph was achieved despite only being in the lead for 73 minutes of the 720 they played at Euro 2016. Portugal became the first team to have finished third in their group to go on to win the trophy. They had needed an injury-time winner in extra-time to overcome Croatia in a terrible round-of-16 game where they had set out to nullify the influence of Croatia's creative midfielders Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic. Penalties were needed to beat Poland after a similarly negative approach. Only Wales in the semi-final were beaten within 90 minutes.

Yet Santos deserves praise for his tactical decisions. He has managed to blend a new generation of players – a year earlier, Joao Mario and William Carvalho had lost to Sweden in the final of the European Under-21 championship – alongside elder statesmen like Ronaldo, Nani, and Quaresma. And he did so without the new generation's brightest young star, Bernardo Silva, who had been injured on the eve of the tournament.

In the Final, Santos replaced tiring midfielder Sanches with long-legged striker Eder. "When he came on he told me he would score," Santos said. "The ugly duckling went and scored. Now he's a beautiful swan."

Eder will now be remembered in the same manner as previous scorers of winning Final goals: Oliver Bierhoff in 1996, David Trezeguet in 2000 and Fernando Torres in 2008.

Portugal, of course, had experienced their own heartache as hosts, in 2004, when Greece spoilt the party in Lisbon and reduced Ronaldo to tears. Now it was the turn of France to feel the pain of defeated hosts. Indeed, the hosts rarely win the Euros; France were the last to triumph on home soil, in 1984.

The Final was a clash of styles: France's attack-minded strategy against Portugal's defensive, win-at-all-costs approach. French coach Didier Deschamps had made a series of tactical changes during the group matches, dropping Antoine Griezmann and Paul Pogba, reinstating them and switching formation from 4-3-3 to 4-2-3-1 to 4-4-2. But in the semi-final, he stuck with same line-up that had blown away Iceland in the

Over...Cristiano Ronaldo is injured in the Final

Beaten...France keeper Hugo Lloris fails to keep out Eder's shot

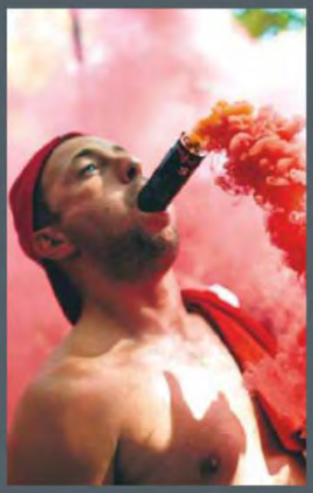
THINGS WE LEARNED

1 GOALS WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY
108 goals were scored in 51 matches, an average of 2.12 per game.

2 IT WAS HARD TO STOP FANS SMUGGLING FLARES INTO STADIUMS
Supporters hid flares in all manner of unspeakable places in order to avoid heavy stadium security searches.

3 WING-BACKS WERE BACK IN FASHION
Italy, Germany and Wales were among the teams who deployed 3-5-2 (or 5-3-2) in order to make the most of their resources.

4 UEFA DUCKED THE ISSUE OF SHIRT-PULLING
Only two penalties were awarded for shirt-pulling in the entire tournament. Yet every team was guilty at every corner and set-piece.


Hidden...fans got flares into grounds

5 EVEN THE MOST GIFTED FOOTBALLERS CAN MISS PENALTIES
Germany and Italy were guilty of missing a succession of spot-kicks in their quarter-final shoot-out, while Mesut Ozil also failed from 12 yards against Slovakia.

6 RUSSIAN HOOLIGANS WERE VIOLENT AND ORGANISED
The attacks on English fans in Marseille's Velodrome do not bode well for a peaceful and trouble-free World Cup in Russia in 2018.

7 THE 24-TEAM FORMAT LED TO MORE DEFENSIVE PLAY
Two teams – Portugal and Northern Ireland – reached the knockout stage with just three points from their three group games.

8 CLASSIC CENTRE-FORWARD PLAY IS A DYING ART
The number of outstanding forwards at Euro 2016 could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

9 TICKET TOUTS ENJOYED A FIELD DAY
The secondary-ticket market flourished at all the tournament venues, and UEFA seemed powerless to prevent it.

10 EIGHT OF THE 22 FINAL STARTERS PLAYED FOR PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS
The argument that English-based players need a winter break to succeed at international level needs to be re-assessed after this.

first half of the quarter-final at Stade de France.

Les Bleus went into the Final still suffering the effects of an emotional hangover from the intense semi-final victory over Germany in Marseille. That had been by far the tournament's most exciting and enjoyable match, played in a cauldron-like atmosphere in the Stade Velodrome.

France began brightly enough but were knocked off course by Ronaldo's premature departure. With Portugal's talisman removed from the contest, the hosts proved incapable of forcing home the advantage. As key attackers either faded (Griezmann) or were ineffectual (Olivier Giroud) Deschamps made surprising substitutions, withdrawing Payet and the highly-effective (on the night, at least) Moussa Sissoko.

Like *La Marseillaise*, the national anthem that had been sung out of sync by different sections of the Stade de France crowd, the French side were unable to match the feats of their 1984 and 1998 predecessors.

France had thrilled in fits and starts – much like the tournament as a whole. There were some outstanding individual games – France-Germany, Italy-Germany, Italy-Spain – and some remarkable individual stories – Wales and Iceland – but Euro 2016 will not be remembered as one of the great tournaments.

The new 24-team format produced too much defensive football and served a warning shot to FIFA should the world governing body pursue a suggestion of expanding the World Cup to 40 teams. "I think 24 teams are too many," Germany coach Joachim Low said. "The World Cup's going to be increased to 40 teams and it's getting more and more, and that's a problem in the long term.

"Sometimes you get the feeling it's not doing football any good. The quality is suffering."

The skewed draw was not a direct result of the new format, but teams such as Spain went for a win against Croatia in their final match when a point would have been sufficient to top the group,

Spain therefore dropped into the bottom half of the draw – along with France, Germany, England and Italy – so that countries that host Europe's top five leagues were all in the same half.

Germany, Italy and Spain cancelled each other out, meaning that France played six of the weakest teams in the tournament – Romania, Albania, Switzerland, Republic of Ireland and Iceland – before meeting Germany in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Portugal reached the Final after finishing third in their group and only winning one match in 90 minutes (the semi-final).

There were some individual beneficiaries from the new format. Iceland, Wales, Hungary, Northern Ireland all gave their fans reasons to be delighted on their Euro debuts.

The success of those teams who proved to be greater than the sum of their parts might suggest that the calibre of coaching was high in France. But the decisions made by the likes of Marc Wilmots and Roy Hodgson were poor. Even World Cup-winning boss Low faced criticism for some of his selections.

Italy's Antonio Conte proved to be a cut above the rest, taking a poor-on-paper Italian side further than most expected. Conte, of course, had already agreed to join Chelsea after the competition, but how many other coaches at Euro 2016 would be offered terms by any of the continent's leading clubs on their performance in France?

Ironically, Fernando Santos was replaced as Greece coach in 2014 by Claudio Ranieri, who went on to lead Leicester City to unimaginable heights last season.

And while Portugal's triumph in Paris was not as big a shock as that delivered by Ranieri's Leicester, it was somehow fitting that a player like Eder, rather than superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, turned out to be the hero of Portuguese football's greatest night.

Distraught...Paul Pogba of France

Big guns...Italy put out holders Spain (in white) in the round of 16

EURO 2016: A-Z

A is for **Anthems**, and Euro 2016 featured some of the best, notably Wales' *Land of My Fathers*.

B is for **Brexit**, the political story that ran parallel to England's exit from the tournament.

C is for **Cristiano Ronaldo**, Portugal's captain stole the Final headlines even when he was injured.

D is for **Dentist**, the day job of Iceland co-coach Heimir Hallgrimsson.

E is for **Eder**, the unexpected star of the Final.

Leader...Cristiano Ronaldo on the touchline

F is for **Flops**, from Wayne Rooney and Harry Kane to Thomas Muller and Mario Gotze.

G is for **Griezmann**, French football's new superstar.

Superstar...Antoine Griezmann was the tournament's top scorer with six goals

H is for **Handball** by Bastian Schweinsteiger against France, the moment that the tournament started to slip away from the world champions, Germany.

I is for **Iceland**, the tournament's most remarkable story.

J is for **Joao Mario**, the midfielder who typified Portugal's disciplined approach.

K is for **Kiraly**, Hungary's 40-year-old goalkeeper and proud owner of the tournament's baggiest tracksuit bottoms.

L is for **Late** goals, with 19 of them being scored during the final five minutes of normal time.

Missing...Super Victor

M is for **Missing** mascot, Super Victor, who became a huge embarrassment to UEFA when it

Support...Iceland fans

was revealed it was also the name of a popular sex toy.

N is for **Nike**, supplier of kits to both Finalists.

O is for **Own** goal by Gareth McAuley that sealed Northern Ireland's fate against Wales.

P is for **Platini**, the disgraced former UEFA leader who did not attend any matches of "his" tournament.

Q is for **Quitting** coaches, led by England's Roy Hodgson.

R is for **Rain**, lots of it and much of it unexpected in France during June and July.

S is for **Shirt-pulling**, which mostly went unpunished.

Down pour...rainwater is swept away before the game between Belgium and Italy in Lyon

Sounds right...Will Grigg's on the bench for all of Northern Ireland's campaign

T is for **Thunderclap**, invented by Iceland fans, copied by everybody.

U is for **UEFA**, low-key and leaderless in the aftermath of Platini's humiliation.

V is for **Velodrome**, the tournament's best stadium and venue for its best game – the France-Germany semi-final.

W is for **Will Grigg**, subject of Euro 2016's most ubiquitous song but on the bench for the whole of Northern Ireland's tournament. Not that the fans cared.

Siblings...Granit (left) and Taulant Xhaka

X is for **Xhaka** brothers, Granit of Switzerland, and Taulant of Albania, who faced in each other in their opening game.

Y is for **Youth**, exemplified by Portuguese midfielders Renato Sanches (18), Joao Mario (23) and William Carvalho (24).

Z is for **Zaza**, purveyor of the tournament's most ridiculous penalty miss.

GOALKEEPER

RUI PATRICIO

(Portugal)

Solid, dependable and outstanding when it mattered most in the Final. A supremely confident presence behind his back four.

Honourable mentions Hugo Lloris (France), Hannes Halldorsson (Iceland), Gianluigi Buffon (Italy), Manuel Neuer (Germany).

RIGHT-BACK

BACARY SAGNA

(France)

A member of the French defence that conceded only two goals in the entire tournament and also played an important attacking role.

Honourable mentions Cedric Soares (Portugal), Joshua Kimmich (Germany), Darijo Srna (Croatia).

Central role... Leonardo Bonucci

CENTRE-BACKS

PEPE

(Portugal)

The Brazilian-born stopper, a European champion with club and country in 2016, typified the spirit with which Portugal claimed the title. And he did so without the histrionics that he had previously been guilty of.

LEONARDO BONUCCI

(Italy)

Played a central role in the defensive unit that took Italy a lot further than many expected.

Honourable mentions Ragnar Sigurdsson (Iceland), Ashley Williams (Wales), James Chester (Wales), Jerome Boateng (Germany), Laurent Koscielny (France), Jose Fonte (Portugal).

Dependable...Rui Patricio in the Final

LEFT-BACK

RAPHAEL GUERREIRO

(Portugal)

With Cristiano Ronaldo and Nani playing centrally, he gave Portugal's attacks some valuable width – and he was no slouch defensively, either.

Honourable mentions Jonas Hector (Germany), Neil Taylor (Wales), Martin Olsson (Sweden).

MIDFIELDERS

RENATO SANCHES

(Portugal)

Demonstrated great maturity for a teenager, taking on responsibility in the centre of the Portuguese midfield. Tired in the Final, but was named young player of the tournament.

Dynamic...Toni Kroos

Prospect... Renato Sanches

Boost...Dimitri Payet got France's campaign off to a flying start

AARON RAMSEY

(Wales)

Was hugely missed in the semi-final, when the Welsh lacked the creative drive that he had provided in earlier matches.

TONI KROOS

(Germany)

Germany's most dynamic performer. Unfortunate to be playing in a side that lacked a real cutting edge in attack.

Six-shooter... Antoine Griezmann

DIMITRI PAYET

(France)

Gave the hosts a boost with his goal that rescued the opening game. Surprisingly subbed in the Final.

Honourable mentions Eden Hazard (Belgium), Grzegorz Krychowiak (Poland), Luka Modric (Croatia).

FORWARDS

ANTOINE GRIEZMANN

(France)

The player of the tournament despite fading in the Final. Top scorer with six goals.

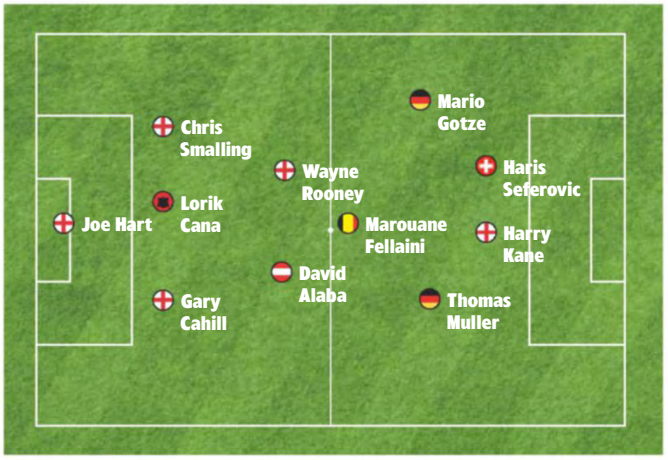
GARETH BALE

(Wales)

Mixed individual brilliance from free-kicks with an understanding of the importance of the collective effort. A *galactico* who was also one of the boyos.

Honourable mentions Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Nani (Portugal), Hal Robson-Kanu (Wales), Alvaro Morata (Spain)

EURO FLOPS XI



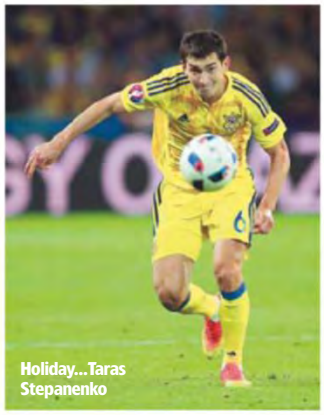
24 TO 1

the finalists assessed

FIRST-ROUND FALLERS

UKRAINE

The first to depart from the tournament following successive defeats to Germany and Northern Ireland. Their preparations had been hit by a row between Dynamo Kiev and Shakhtar Donetsk players, while coach Mykhaylo Fomenko was criticised for picking players who had Russian connections, notably Yevhen Seleznyov, who moved to Russian club Kuban Krasnodar stating that he "must earn food for his family". Others to face criticism were Yaroslav Rakitskiy, who was



Holiday...Taras Stepanenko

born in Donetsk but refused to sing the national anthem, and Shakhtar's Taras Stepanenko, who confirmed that he had spent his holidays in the occupied Crimea peninsula.

- **HITS** Oleksandr Zinchenko.
- **MISSES** Too many to mention.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Fomenko informed the players of his resignation after the final game against Poland.

ROMANIA

Disappointing, but there was never any reason to think otherwise ahead of the Euros. A defensive team without a clear plan as to how they would find the attacking mindset needed to progress. After a creditable performance in the tournament opener against France, coach Anghel Iordanescu made the questionable decision to drop Nicolae Stanciu, his best player against the French, for the game against Switzerland. Ultra cautious tactics and tiring players did them no favours in the final group defeat to Albania.

- **HITS** Nicolae Stanciu, Bogdan Stancu.
- **MISSES** Most of the squad in the final game against Albania.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Iordanescu resigned, ending his third spell in charge of the national side, and was later replaced by Germany's Christoph Daum.

RUSSIA

Beset by eve-of-tournament injuries to key players Alan Dzagoev and Igor Denisov, and distracted by off-the-pitch troubles with their fans. Coach Leonid Slutsky struggled to fill the midfield void, though the team did come strong in the later stages of both opening games. The team doctor complained that Russian players have been drugs-tested more than other teams. Arguably the weakest team in the whole tournament, they were taken apart by Gareth Bale and Wales in their final game. Overall, a disaster and a terrible starting point from which to contemplate hosting the 2018 World Cup.

- **HITS** Igor Akinfeev.
- **MISSES** Roman Neustadter.

Stepped down...Leonid Slutsky

- **COACH'S FUTURE** Slutsky quit and returned to his duties as CSKA Moscow coach.

ALBANIA

Exceeded all expectations despite losing captain and talisman Lorik Cana to a silly red card against Switzerland and succumbing to late French goals in Marseille. They made history by beating Romania in their final game, thanks to Armando Sadiku's headed goal, and were unlucky to miss out on the knockout stage despite having as many points as Northern Ireland and Portugal.

- **HITS** Elseid Hysaj, Armando Sadiku.
- **MISSES** Taulent Xhaka, Lorik Cana.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Uncertain.

TURKEY

One of the biggest disappointments of the group stage. More was expected of a new generation led by Arda Turan, but the Barcelona man was strangely subdued and was even booed by his own fans. The victory over Czech Republic came too late and goals conceded to Spain counted against them and ensured they were not one of the best third-placed teams. The emergence of teenage midfielder Emre Mor, raised in Denmark but persuaded to play for Turkey and now on his way to Borussia Dortmund, offers hope for the future.

- **HITS** Emre Mor.
- **MISSES** Arda Turan.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Uncertain.

SWEDEN

Their fans created a wall of yellow in the stands but they had little to celebrate on the pitch. A decidedly average side rescued a point against Republic of Ireland, but a loss of

Support...Albanian fans enjoyed their side's first-ever major finals participation

Bright future ...Emre Mor

Surprise...Tomas Rosicky (in white)

concentration late in the game against Italy left them contemplating a tournament exit. Zlatan Ibrahimovic must have been frustrated by the lack of quality among his team-mates, but at least his international retirement gives new coach Janne Andersson the chance to build a team around last year's Under-21 Euro Championship-winning side. It may take some time before they return to a major finals.

HITS Martin Olsson.

MISSES Marcus Berg, Sebastian Larsson, Victor Lindelof.

COACH'S FUTURE Erik Hamren had already agreed to step down, with Janne Andersson taking over.

AUSTRIA

A major disappointment after being tipped by many (including Roy Hodgson in a *World Soccer* interview) as a surprise package. After defeat to Hungary, they held out against Portugal without ever threatening themselves, the experiment with playing David Alaba further forward failing to yield results. Iceland grabbed the headlines with their last-gasp winner in the final group game, ensuring Austria's exit avoided scrutiny, although they actually gave their best 45 minutes of the tournament in the second half against Iceland.

HITS Julian Baumgartlinger, Alexander Schopf.

MISSES Martin Harnik, Martin Hinteregger.

COACH'S FUTURE Koller looks set to stay.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Tomas Rosicky, a surprise inclusion in the squad, clocked up more minutes in the first half of the opening match against Spain than he did during an entire injury-hit season with Arsenal. But he and his team-mates failed to rise to the occasion. Poor defending against Croatia saw them go 2-0 down, though they showed commendable spirit to play their way back to 2-2. But, without the injured Rosicky, their ageing legs and lack of quality were exposed by Turkey in the final group game.

HITS Milan Skoda.

MISSES Miroslav Plasil, David Limbersky.

COACH'S FUTURE Pavel Vrba stepped down to take charge of Russian club Anzhi.

ROUND-OF-16 EXIT

SWITZERLAND

Ultimately disappointing although nobody expected them to go beyond the last 16. They muddled their way through against 10-man Albania and then failed to beat a defence-minded Romania side, before a more spirited performance against France confirmed their place in the knockout stage. Profligate striker Haris Seferovic had the look of a modern-day Stephane Guivarc'h but when he was finally dropped, much-touted teenager Breel Embolo did not fare any better. Xherdan Shaqiri gave another tantalising glimpse of his undoubted talent with his brilliant equaliser against Poland while Granit Xhaka, his penalty miss aside, amply demonstrated the qualities that attracted Arsenal.

HITS Xherdan Shaqiri, Granit Xhaka.

MISSES Haris Seferovic.

COACH'S FUTURE Vladimir Petkovic remains in charge for the World Cup qualifying campaign.

Wasteful...Haris Seferovic

NORTHERN IRELAND

Exceeded expectations by reaching the last 16, a reward for the team's effort and industry and savoured by the team's noisy fans. Michael O'Neill was prepared to take tough decisions, dropping Kyle Lafferty to the bench for the Ukraine game, but lacked a Plan B when he needed it most, against Wales. They should have been thrashed by Germany but showed commendable spirit to keep the scoreline down to the single goal. It was fitting that veteran defender Gareth McAuley, one of O'Neill's most loyal foot soldiers, got the opening goal against Ukraine to put Northern Ireland on the brink of the knockout stages – but ironic that he should be responsible for the cruel own goal that ended their run.

HITS Michael McGovern.

MISSES Kyle Lafferty.

COACH'S FUTURE O'Neill signed a new contract to remain as coach before the tournament, but his stock is rising and could be tempted by a club job.

CROATIA

Impressive on the pitch – especially midfielders Luka Modric, Ivan Perisic and Ivan Rakitic, and blood-stained defender Vedran Corluka – but they were distracted by off-the-pitch chaos, with their supporters seemingly determined to embarrass the FA into submission. The players were clearly unsettled by the disruption in the Czech Republic game, conceding a late equaliser after flares were thrown onto the pitch. But other factors were at work too, with captain Darijo Srna determined to carry on playing in memory of his father, who passed away during the tournament. They produced one of the best performances of the competition, despite a much-changed team, to defeat defending champions Spain in their final group game – so it was frustrating to then exit in the last 16 to a late, late goal from Portugal's Ricardo Qauresma.

Fiery...Croatia players remonstrate with fans after flares were thrown onto the pitch

- **HITS** Ivan Perisic, Ivan Rakitic, Luka Modric.
- **MISSES** Fans.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Uncertain. The decision will be down to Zdravko Mamic and the federation.

REP OF IRELAND

A big improvement on four years ago in Poland. Robbie Brady's late header against Italy gave the travelling fans something to celebrate after defensive mistakes had cost them dear against Belgium, and a failure to close out the game against Sweden after an outstanding goal by Wes "Wessi" Hoolahan. French quality told in the knockout round after the Republic's shock early goal.

- **HITS** Robbie Brady, Jeff Hendrick.
- **MISSES** Ciaran Clark.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Martin O'Neill extended his contract to cover Ireland's 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign.

SLOVAKIA

Better than expected. They came through a tough group along with England and Wales, so it was no disgrace losing to world champions Germany. They were unlucky to miss out to Wales, when Matus Kozacik should have saved Gareth Bales's free-kick. They gave their most impressive performance in beating Russia 2-1, when Marek Hamsik put in one of the outstanding individual performances of the tournament. Napoli will be bracing themselves for offers for the attacking midfielder after coach Jan Kozak suggested Hamsik deserves to be playing for a bigger club.

- **HITS** Marek Hamsik.
- **MISSES** Juraj Kucka.
- **COACH'S FUTURE:** Kozak stays in charge for World Cup qualifiers.

HUNGARY

After a shaky start against Austria, they recovered with Adam Szalai's historic goal kick-starting a campaign that showed how far "lesser" teams can go with a bit of organisation and self-belief, typified by experienced goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly. Huge crowds greeted the squad on their return home – an indication of the optimism for the future after the performance of youngsters like Adam Nagy and Adam Lang. Fans also travelled to France in large numbers, but the black-shirted hardcore were a concern for UEFA.

- **HITS** Zoltan Gera, Adam Nagy, Adam Lang, Gabor Kiraly.

Optimism...Hungary try to keep out Belgium

- **MISSES** None.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Bernd Storck stays on.

SPAIN

In the end, the defending champions gave up their crown with a whimper. They had appeared to put the 2014 World Cup disaster behind them with impressive performances in their opening two games, but were spooked by Croatia in their final group match, when a draw would have seen them top the pool. They then failed to rise to the occasion against Italy, when coach Vicente Del Bosque could not cope with tactics that stifled Spain's midfield. Andres Iniesta looked as if he might fill the void left by Xavi and Xabi Alonso, but Spain needed new blood and an extra defensive midfielder alongside Sergio Busquets. Thiago and Koke did not feature enough, but the decision to leave Diego Costa out of the squad was vindicated by the form of Alvaro Morata.

- **HITS** Andres Iniesta, David De Gea.
- **MISSES** Sergio Busquets, David Silva.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Del Bosque confirmed he was standing down.

ENGLAND

A humiliating exit at the hands of Iceland for a team that could not even live up to its reputation as traditional quarter-final fallers. They played their best football in the opening game against Russia, when manager Roy Hodgson's natural caution prompted the substitution of Wayne Rooney before Russia's late, undeserved equaliser. Hodgson made bold half-time changes against Wales – the first ever double half-time substitution by England at a tournament – but he faced criticism for reinventing Rooney as a midfielder and his loyalty to the misfiring Raheem Sterling. A tired Harry Kane and an out-of-sorts Joe Hart contributed to England's woes. The inevitable post-tournament inquest must surely centre on the cause of England's mental fragility at major tournaments.

Shock...Iceland knocked out England

- **HITS** Eric Dier.
- **MISSES** Wayne Rooney, Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling, Joe Hart.

Hair-raising...Marek Hamsik excelled against Russia

COACH'S FUTURE Hodgson quit in the immediate aftermath of the Iceland defeat. The FA faces a difficult proposition locating and hiring his successor.

BEATEN QUARTER-FINALISTS

POLAND

One of the most impressive teams of the group stage, they beat a stoical but limited Northern Ireland and would have got three points against Germany but for striker Arkadiusz Milik's misses. They played their best football in the round-of-16 victory over Switzerland, but came up short with a cautious approach against Portugal, even though Robert Lewandowski finally rediscovered his shooting boots, which had gone missing in the group stage.

HITS Grzegorz Krychowiak, Kamil Glik.

MISSES Robert Lewandowski, Jakub Blaszczykowski.

COACH'S FUTURE Unclear.

BELGIUM

A collection of talented individuals who coach Marc Wilmots was unable to mould into an effective team. Critical comments by keeper Thibaut Courtois, who placed the blame at the coach's door, were dismissed by Wilmots as "constructive criticism", but it clearly was not a happy camp. Outmanoeuvred by Italy in their opening game, they found their feet against the Republic of Ireland, Sweden and Hungary as Eden Hazard rediscovered the form that went missing last term at Chelsea. But in the quarter-final against Wales, Wilmots failed to learn the lessons of the qualifying campaign, where the two sides had met, and the Welsh were able to exploit Belgium's defensive weaknesses.

HITS Eden Hazard, Thomas Vermaelen.

MISSES Kevin De Bruyne, Jason Denayer, Marouane Fellaini.

COACH'S FUTURE Wilmots stays in charge...for now.

Revitalised...Eden Hazard impressed for Belgium after a quiet year at Chelsea

ITALY

Antonio Conte demonstrated why Chelsea were so keen to hire him as he managed to extract the best from a squad of limited talents and the Italians played a full part in two of the best games of the tournament, against Spain and Germany. Conte set his side up brilliantly against Belgium, who were on paper the more talented team but fell into the *Azzurri*'s trap. Sweden proved harder to break down, but Eder's late goal allayed fears that Italy would lack a cutting edge. A completely changed team were beaten by a late Irish goal, then played a tactical masterclass against Spain before losing a shoot-out to Germany with poor spot-kicks from Simone Zaza and Graziano Pelle.

HITS Gianluigi Buffon, Leonardo Bonucci, Federico Bernardeschi.

MISSES Simone Zaza.

COACH'S FUTURE Conte left for Chelsea, with Torino's Giampiero Venturo lined up to replace him.

Smile...Iceland enjoyed their trip to France

ICELAND

The tournament's fairy tale was ended in Paris by the hosts – but not before the Icelanders had charmed the continent and angered Cristiano Ronaldo along the way. By beating England, they pulled off one of the biggest (but deserved) upsets in the history of the tournament. They were unapologetic about their tactics; they played to their strengths, with a well executed gameplan, and the players showed plenty of technical expertise. They froze in the first-half of the semi, allowing France to race into a 4-0 lead, but showed commendable character to score twice after the break and give their army of fans further reasons to celebrate.

HITS Hannes Halldorsson, Ragnar Sigurdsson, Birkir Bjarnason.

MISSES None.

COACH'S FUTURE Co-coach Lars Lagerback stepped down, leaving Heimir Hallgrimsson in sole charge for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers.

Spirit...Hal Robson-Kanu

BEATEN SEMI-FINALISTS

WALES

This was a glorious first European Championship campaign which will be remembered and savoured for all the right reasons. Chris Coleman's squad behaved more like a club side – which was not surprising for a close-knit group of players who had made their international debuts together and been bonded by the tragic passing of manager Gary Speed. And they were so much more than just Gareth Bale and 10 others. Defenders Ben Davies and James Chester raised their game to another level, while Ashley Williams and Aaron Ramsey confirmed their reputations as top-class internationals who will go into the 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign as strong contenders to make it to Russia. And this was not a Greece-style backs-to-the-wall strategy, either. Coleman's side defended heroically when they had to, but they also played some decent football.

- **HITS** Ashley Williams, Gareth Bale, Hal Robson-Kanu, James Chester.
- **MISSES** none.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Coleman is contracted to stay on for the World Cup qualifying campaign but could be tempted by an offer of club football.

GERMANY

The world champions reached yet another tournament semi-final but the manner of their defeat hurt badly. They ended the curse of never having beaten Italy at a major tournament by winning the quarter-final penalty shoot-out, but against the *Azzurri* – and France in the semi-finals – they failed to make and take the chances that would have seen them through to the Final. Joachim Low's shifting of tactics may have been an attempt to match his opponents (Italy) or cope with the lack of a main centre-forward (France) but they were not entirely convincing. The decline of Mario Gotze was marked, from World Cup hero two years ago to anonymous bystander. Where are all the classic German centre-forwards?

- **HITS** Jerome Boateng, Joshua Kimmich.
- **MISSES** Thomas Muller, Mario Gotze.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Low is contracted until 2018.

Decline...Mario Gotze

RUNNERS-UP

FRANCE

The hosts had hoped to emulate their predecessors of 1984 and 1998 by triumphing on home soil. After their epic semi-final victory over Germany in the tournament's best match, that seemed within their grasp. Coach Didier Deschamps proved a capable leader who had dealt well with the series of challenges he was presented with – the controversial omission of Karim Benzema; defensive withdrawals (injury to Raphael Varane and Jeremie Mathieu, the suspension of Mamadou Sakho); and the weight of expectations on the young shoulders of Paul Pogba. Deschamps was unafraid to make tactical changes, bringing in Anthony Martial and Kingsley Coman for the second group game against Albania, before switching formation and recalling Griezmann and Pogba against Switzerland, and then moving Griezmann to a central role from the quarter-finals onwards. But in the Final, he and his players came up short. Nevertheless it was still a significant transformation from the team that had been so clearly rejected by the French public after their 2010 World Cup failure.

Disappointment...Didier Deschamps

- **HITS** Antoine Griezmann, Samuel Umtiti, Moussa Sissoko, Hugo Lloris.
- **MISSES** Andre-Pierre Gignac.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Unclear after the disappointment of losing in the Final.

WINNERS

PORTUGAL

After they came through the group stage without a win, few would have predicted Fernando Santos' side to be on the winners' podium in Paris. Until the semi-final defeat of Wales, the *Selecao* had not won a game inside 90 minutes. But Santos' tactics did the job they were intended to. It was not the attacking football of previous Portuguese teams but they are much harder to beat. A hard-working midfield, typified by Adrien Silva and Joao Mario, provided the platform for a misfiring Ronaldo to drag his side over the finishing line. The great irony was they ultimately achieved victory in the Final without Ronaldo.

- **HITS** Renato Sanches, Nani, Eder.
- **MISSES** Joao Moutinho.
- **COACH'S FUTURE** Santos likely to be offered new deal to deter potential suitors.

Hard-working... Joao Mario (left) and Adrien Silva

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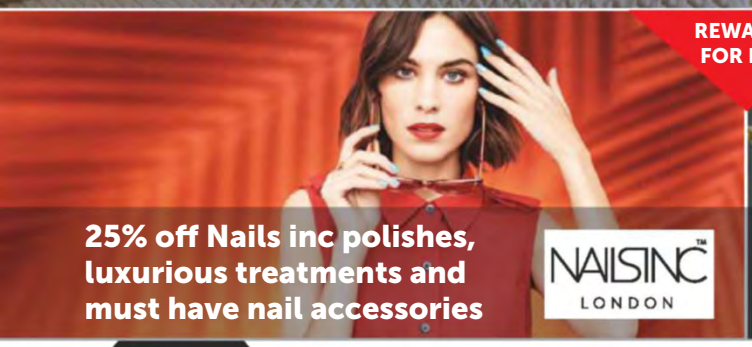

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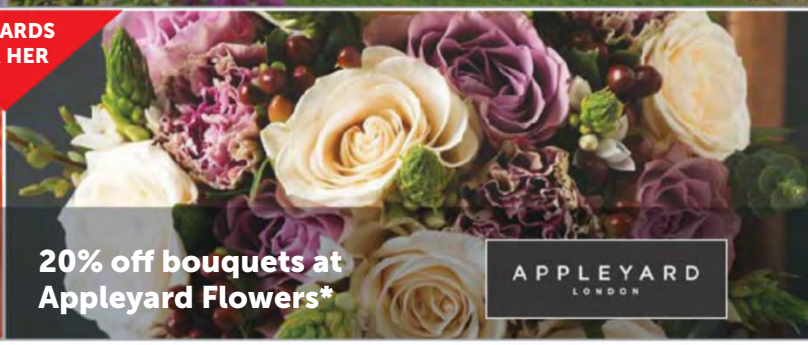

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EURO 2016: THE FINAL

July 10, 2016

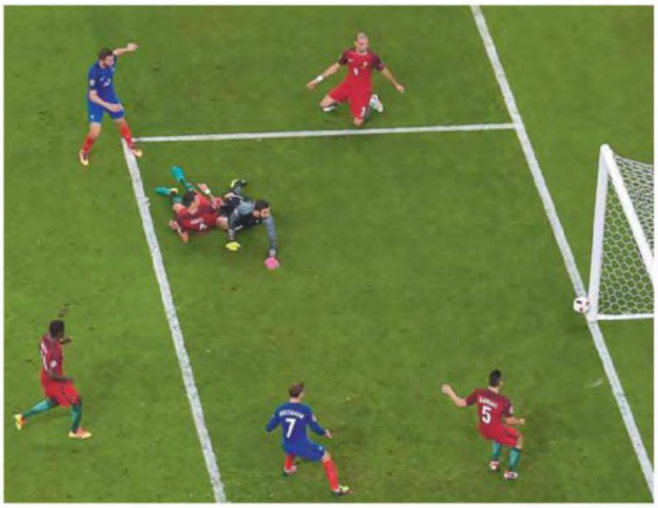
PORTUGAL (0) **1** (Eder 109) (aet; 0-0 at 90mins) **FRANCE** (0) **0**

Stade de France, Saint-Denis. Ref: Clattenburg (Eng). Att: 75,868

PORTUGAL: Patricio; Soares, Pepe, Fonte, Guerreiro: W Carvalho; Sanches (Eder 79), A Silva (Moutinho 66), Joao Mario; Nani, Ronaldo (Quaresma 25)
Booked: Soares 34, Joao Mario 62, Guerreiro 95, W Carvalho 98, Fonte 119, Patricio 120+3
FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Koscielny, Umtiti, Evra; Pogba, Matuidi; Sissoko (Martial 110), Griezmann, Payet (Coman 58); Giroud (Gignac 78)
Booked: Umtiti 80, Matuidi 97, Koscielny 107, Pogba 115

EDER STUNS HOSTS

Playing for most of the match without their injured captain Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal were crowned champions of Europe for the first time with an injury-time goal from substitute Eder. Strong early runs from midfielders Moussa Sissoko and Blaise Matuidi unsettled Portugal, who struggled to overcome their nerves and things took a turn for the worse when Ronaldo collapsed following a challenge by Dimitri Payet. After initial treatment, a tearful Ronaldo returned to the pitch with his left knee heavily strapped, but it soon became clear that he would not be able to continue and coach Fernando Santos was forced to replace his side's talisman. Although France had chances – keeper Rui Patricio having to tip over an Antoine Griezmann header and then parry a powerful shot from Sissoko who had turned away past Adrien Silva – Portugal played the better football in the last 10 minutes of the first half. With Nani as a lone striker and Ronaldo's replacement Ricardo Quaresma on the right flank, teenager Renato Sanches assumed a more influential position in the centre of midfield. Sissoko hit a thundering shot to draw a fine save from Patricio in the second half and Andre-Pierre Gignac, on for the ineffective Olivier Giroud, turned past Pepe in injury-time and beat Patricio, only to see his shot hit a post. During the interval before the start of extra-time, Ronaldo emerged from the tunnel with his knee still bandaged and urged his team-mates on, one by one. And it was Eder, on for the exhausted Sanches, who gave the tiring French defence something to worry about. With his strength causing problems, Lloris did well to push away the big centre-forward's downward header from a corner and then had to tip Raphael Guerreiro's free-kick onto the bar. But just as minds were turning towards penalties, Eder struck to crown Portugal champions of Europe.

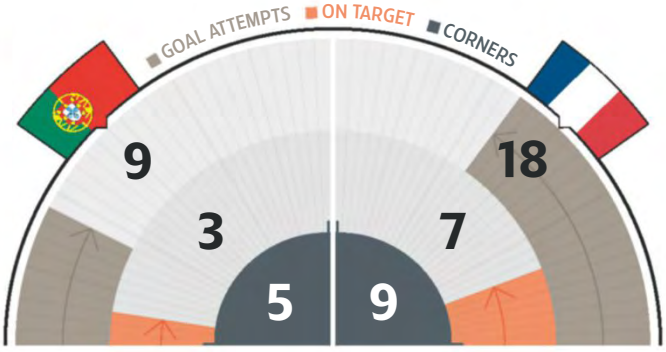


So close...Andre-Pierre Gignac (top left) hits a post

Triumph...Cristiano Ronaldo lifts the trophy

Dejected...beaten hosts France

STATS



KEY MOMENT

With the game seemingly heading for penalties, Eder picked up a loose ball 30 yards out from the French goal and fired a fierce low shot that Lloris could not keep out.

Winner...Eder fires home in extra time

MAN OF THE MATCH
Pepe eschewed the histrionics and gave a faultless performance in defence for Portugal.

MATTER OF FACT
Portugal took until the 80th minute to register a shot on target – the longest wait for a team in a European Championship Final.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I said to myself in the shower that hitting the post will haunt me until the end of my career, and even afterwards. It's a nightmare"
France's Andre-Pierre Gignac

TALKING POINT
Portugal played better as a team after Ronaldo went off injured. A young midfield – Sanches 18, William Carvalho 24 and Joao Mario 23 – were more comfortable passing to their best-placed team-mate, rather than always looking to find their captain.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is an amazing example. Today he tried to remain on the pitch. He was very strong in the locker room, he helped all of the boys, that's the definition of teamwork"

Portugal coach Fernando Santos

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June 10, 2016

FRANCE (0) 2
(Giroud 57, Payet 89)

ROMANIA (0) 1
(Stancu pen 65)

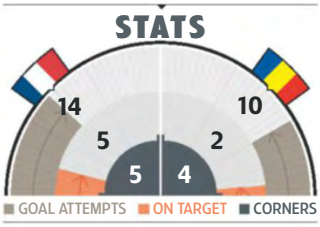
Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Ref Kassai (Hun). Att: 75,113

FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Pogba (Martial 77), Kante, Matuidi; Griezmann (Coman 66), Giroud, Payet (Sissoko 90+2)
Booked: ■ Giroud 69
ROMANIA: Tatarusanu; Sapunaru, Chiriches, Grigore, Rat; Pintilii, Hoban; Popa (Torje 82), Stanciu (Chipciu 72), Stancu; Andone (Alibec 61)
Booked: ■ Chiriches 32, ■ Rat 45, ■ Popa 78

WE'VE GOT PAYET
France left it late to claim victory in the tournament's opening game with a wonderstrike from Dimitri Payet. The hosts had not played a competitive match for two years and, for much of the match, it showed. They missed a number of chances before Olivier Giroud made the breakthrough early in the second half, but French defensive frailties were then exposed when 35-year-old Patrice Evra's clumsy trip handed Romania a penalty that was put away by Bogdan Stancu. Romania, who conceded just two goals in qualifying, looked more than capable of holding on for a draw – until Payet's late winner.

KEY MOMENT
Just when it looked as though Romania would hold out for a draw, Payet received the ball 25 yards from goal, turned to make space for himself and curled the ball into the far corner.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Payet created the opener for Giroud, set up eight chances in total and scored the winner. He was the only Frenchman to find space among an organised Romanian backline.



MATTER OF FACT
There have now been penalties in three of the last four opening finals' games – in 2004, 2012 and 2016 – with all of them awarded against the host nation.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Even if Romania had three goalkeepers, it wouldn't have been enough to stop the shot!"
Thierry Henry on Payet's winner

TALKING POINT
Would the result have been different if Hugo Lloris had not saved at point-blank range from Stancu following Romania's first corner of the game in the 3rd minute? And should Romania have had a first-half penalty after Laurent Koscielny fouled Florin Andone? Stancu missed another chance early in the second half before finally converting Romania's penalty.

June 11, 2016

ALBANIA (0) 0

SWITZERLAND (1) 1
(Schar 5)

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens
Ref: Velasco Carballo (Spa). Att: 33,805

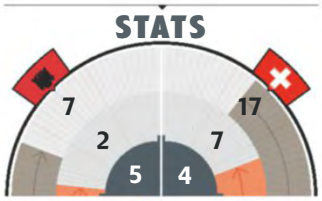
ALBANIA: Berisha; Hysaj, Cana, Mavraj, Agolli; Kukeli; Roshi (Cikalleshi 74), Abrashi, Xhaka (Kace 62), Lenjani; Sadiku (Gashi 82)
Booked: ■ Cana 23, ■ Kace 63, ■ Kukeli 89, ■ Mavraj 90+2
Sent off: ■ Cana 36 (second yellow)
SWITZERLAND: Sommer; Lichtsteiner, Schar, Djourou, Rodriguez; Behrami, Xhaka; Shaqiri (Fernandes 88), Dzemaili (Frei 76), Mehmedi (Embolo 62); Seferovic
Booked: ■ Schar 14, ■ Behrami 66

DEBUTANTS SEE RED
Switzerland did just enough to see off 10-man Albania but lacked any finishing finesse against nervous tournament debutants and failed to add to an early lead taken when Fabian Schar rose above keeper Etrit Berisha to head home from a corner. Although Lorik Cana's red card looked to be a killer blow, a spirited second-half performance saw Albania hold their own, backed by a majority of the crowd. Shkelzen Gashi had a great chance for a late equaliser but was foiled by a fine save from Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

KEY MOMENT
Albania's captain and talisman Cana was sent off for a second yellow card following a slip and a handball to prevent Haris Seferovic going through on goal – although he did appear to be impeded by the Swiss centre-forward.

Local hero...Dimitri Payet (blue no8) strikes a late winner for France in their opening game

MAN OF THE MATCH
Granit Xhaka won the battle of the brothers, though he was lucky to escape punishment for a reckless early foul. His sibling, Taulant, slammed a water bottle against the Albania bench in frustration after he was substituted.



MATTER OF FACT
Cana was sent off 13 years to the day after making his international debut – against Switzerland in a Euro qualifier. His red card ruled him out of Albania's next game, against France in Marseille – where he played for four seasons.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It was special for my family here with two brothers playing on different sides. It was great for us, too – if perhaps a bit more special for me than him."
Granit Xhaka on facing his brother

TALKING POINT
Not only were there siblings on opposite sides for the first time in a Euro finals, but five of the Swiss starting XI were either from Kosovar-Albanian families or of Albanian extraction, while four of Albania's side were born or brought up in Switzerland.

Historic...Taulant (in red) and Granit Xhaka became the first brothers to face each other in the Euro finals

June 15, 2016

ROMANIA (1) **1**
(Stancu pen 18)

SWITZERLAND (0) **1**
(Mehmedi 57)

Parc des Princes, Paris
Ref: Karasev (Rus). Att: 43,576

ROMANIA: Tatarusanu; Sapunaru, Chiriches, Grigore, Rat (Filip 62); Prepelita, Pintilii (Hoban 46); Torje, Stancu (Andone 84), Chipciu; Keseru
Booked: Prepelita 22, Chipciu 24, Keseru 37, Grigore 76
SWITZERLAND: Sommer; Lichtsteiner, Schar, Djourou, Rodriguez; Behrami, Xhaka; Shaqiri (Tarashaj 90+1), Dzemaili (Lang 83), Mehmedi; Seferovic (Embolo 63)
Booked: Xhaka 50, Embolo 90+4

HONOURS EVEN

On the balance of play, both teams deserved a point. Switzerland were poor in the first half and Romania were worthy of their lead, courtesy of Bogdan Stancu's 18th-minute penalty. The Swiss improved after Admir Mehmedi's equaliser and exerted plenty of sustained pressure on their opponents, but failed to threaten Ciprian Tatarusanu in the Romanian goal.

KEY MOMENT

The decision by Stephan Lichtsteiner to pull the shirt of Alexandru Chipciu in full view of the referee was a moment of stupidity and gifted Romania their penalty.

MAN OF THE MATCH

In a poor, scrappy match, low on thrills, the left-footed strike by Mehmedi that brought Switzerland level, was a rare moment of quality.

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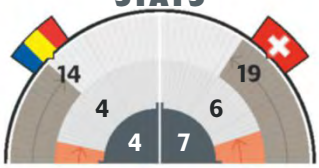


MATTER OF FACT

Including this game, the 14th of Euro 2016, there had been two penalties awarded so far – and both had been scored by Stancu.

WHO SAID WHAT

"I didn't see our goal. I was looking to make a change at the time and I had my back to the action. I am told it was excellent and, of course, it was well deserved."
Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic

TALKING POINT

Switzerland needed a goalscorer. Haris Seferovic was wasteful up front, missing two good chances in the opening 20 minutes and he was eventually replaced by the highly rated Breel Embolo, who showed flashes of raw talent, but at 19, looked ill-equipped to carry the attacking burden.

June 15, 2016

FRANCE (0) **2**
(Griezmann 90, Payet 90+6)

ALBANIA (0) **0**

Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Ref: Collum (Sco). Att: 63,670

FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Kante, Matuidi; Coman (Griezmann 68), Payet, Martial (Pogba 46); Giroud (Gignac 77)

Youngest...Kingsley Coman (no20)

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Albania	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Romania	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Booked: Kante 88
ALBANIA: Berisha; Hysaj, Ajeti (Veseli 85), Mavraj, Agolli; Lila (Roshi 71), Abrashi, Kukeli (Xhaka 74), Memushaj, Lenjani; Sadiku
Booked: Kukeli 55, Abrashi 81

HOSTS GO THROUGH

France qualified for the knockout stage after late goals from Antoine Griezmann and Dimitri Payet finally ended brave Albanian resistance. Missing their captain Lorik Cana after his sending-off against Switzerland, Albania restricted *Les Bleus* to few real scoring chances – and the only French efforts on target were their two goals.

Unseen...Swiss coach Vladimir Petkovic missed Admir Mehmedi's goal against Romania

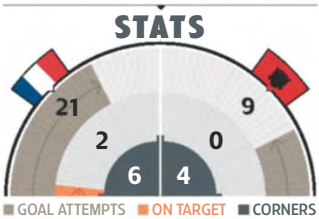
KEY MOMENT

Griezmann's 90th-minute header broke the deadlock just as it looked as if Albania would claim a point.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Payet was deployed in a more central role to aid French efforts to break down Albania's defensive ranks and he added to his growing reputation with a fine goal late in injury-time.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

Kingsley Coman, at 20 years and two days, became the youngest starter for France in the finals of a major tournament.

WHO SAID WHAT

"Often players who come off the bench can make the difference. That was the case in the opening match and again tonight."
France coach Didier Deschamps

TALKING POINT

Didier Deschamps flexed his muscles by dropping Griezmann and Paul Pogba, bringing in Anthony Martial and Coman, and switching to a 4-2-3-1 formation, with Payet in the more central playmaking role where he had finished the opening game against Romania. However, the changes did not improve the side. The midfield was static, unable to get beyond striker Olivier Giroud and frustrated by Albania's deep back-line. Martial's replacement by Pogba for the second half was an admission by Deschamps that he had made a mistake.

June 19, 2016

SWITZERLAND (0) **0**

FRANCE (0) **0**

Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille
Ref: Skomina (Sln). Att: 45,616

SWITZERLAND: Sommer; Lichtsteiner, Schar Djourou, Rodriguez; Behrami, Xhaka; Shaqiri (Fernandes 79), Dzemaili, Mehmedi (Lang 86); Embolo (Seferovic 74)
FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Sissoko, Cabaye, Pogba; Griezmann (Matuidi 77), Gignac, Coman (Payet 63)
Booked: Rami 25, Koscielny 83

LES BLEUS ROTATE

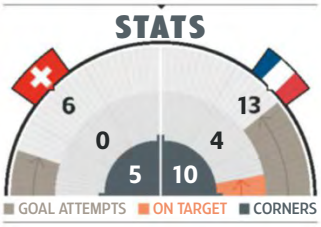
France hit the bar three times, through Paul Pogba (twice) and Dimitri Payet, but had to settle for a point that saw them finish top of the group. Such is the strength in depth

"I hope Puma don't make condoms!"
Xherdan Shaqiri on Switzerland's easily ripped shirts

in the French squad that Didier Deschamps was able to rest Payet, along with Olivier Giroud and N'Golo Kante, who were both a yellow card from suspension. Switzerland did not manage a shot on target in the entire game, but the draw confirmed their place in the knockout stage.

KEY MOMENT
If Pogba's run and powerful shot against the crossbar early in the first half had gone in, the floodgates may well have opened for France.

MAN OF THE MATCH
With a point to prove after being dropped for the second game and forced to deny he had made an obscene gesture toward the press box after Payet had scored France's second goal against Albania, Pogba began like a steam train against the Swiss. He answered his critics with a dynamic performance and came close to scoring three times in the opening 17 minutes.



MATTER OF FACT
Didier Deschamps became only the fifth coach of France to take charge of a 50th game.

WHO SAID WHAT
"The pitch is annoying. I don't know who is responsible. We are only in the group stage and it is in a state."
France coach Didier Deschamps

TALKING POINT
Three Swiss players had their paper-thin shirts ripped during the first half; the Adidas matchball burst when Velon Behrami trod on it; and the Stade Pierre-Mauroy pitch was in a terrible state following recent heavy rains, with players regularly losing their footing. Embarrassing for a tournament organised by football's wealthiest confederation.

June 19, 2016

ROMANIA (0) **0**
ALBANIA (1) **1**
(Sadiku 43)

Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon
Ref: Kralovec (Cze). Att: 49,752

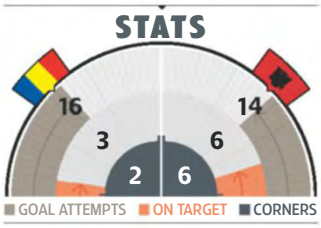
ROMANIA: Tatarusanu; Sapunaru, Chiriches, Grigore, Matel; Prepelita (Sanmartean 46), Hoban; Popa (Andone 68), Stanciu, Stancu; Alibec (Torje 57)
Booked: Matel 54, Sapunaru 85, Torje 90+3

ALBANIA: Berisha; Hysaj, Ajeti, Mavraj, Agolli; Basha (Cana 83); Lila, Memushaj, Abrashi, Lenjani (Roshi 77); Sadiku (Balaj 59)
Booked: Basha 6, Memushaj 85, Hysaj 90+4

ALBANIA'S FIRST FINALS WIN
Romania made all the early running, although Ermir Lenjani missed from five yards, before Armando Sadiku met a far-post cross with a cushioned header over Ciprian Tatarusanu to settle a scrappy match. Romanian sub Florian Andone hit the bar but Albania held on for an historic win.

KEY MOMENT
Ledian Memushaj delivered a wonderful cross to the far post where Sadiku was on hand to score Albania's first goal at a major tournament and, more importantly, secure their first win.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Arlind Ajeti was a rock at the heart of the Albanian defence, making a number of timely tackles and interceptions to deny Romania.



MATTER OF FACT
Albania have faced Romania on no less than 16 occasions – more than any other nation – but this was their first victory against them since 1948.

First ever...Armando Sadiku scores

WHO SAID WHAT
"I'm sure we gave huge joy to the Albanian fans. Not just the Albanians in Albania, but Albanians who live around the world. Wherever we go, we've found fans who just want to show support and gratitude for what we do."
Albania manager Giovanni De Biasi

TALKING POINT
Results were to go against Albania in the other groups, so the three points won here would ultimately prove to be academic. But in terms of Albanian football, the significance of this first victory at a major tournament was incalculable. Regardless of whether his side qualified for the knockout stage, Albania's Italian-born coach Gianni De Biasi was able to leave the finals with his reputation enhanced.

Making his mark...Yohan Cabaye (in white), who came into the France starting line-up, tussles with Switzerland's Breel Embolo

EURO 2016: GROUP B

GROUP STAGE

June 11, 2016

WALES (1) **2**
(Bale 10, Robson-Kanu 81)

SLOVAKIA (0) **1**
(Duda 61)

Stade de Bordeaux
Ref: Moen (Nor). Att: 37,831

WALES: Ward; Chester, A Williams, Davies; Gunter, Edwards (Ledley 69), Allen, Ramsey (Richards 88), Taylor; J Williams (Robson-Kanu 71), Bale
SLOVAKIA: Kozacik; Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Svento; Mak, Kucka, Hrosovsky (Duda 60), Hamsik, Weiss (Stoch 83); Duris (Nemec 59)
Booked: ■ Hrosovsky 31, ■ Mak 78, ■ Weiss 80, ■ Kucka 83, ■ Skrtel 90+2

Delight...Gareth Bale is mobbed after scoring Wales' opening goal against Slovakia

BATTLE OF THE NEWBIES

Wales began their tournament in style, beating fellow debutants Slovakia in a tightly fought contest. Gareth Bale gave Wales an early lead with a superb free-kick but their defensive approach allowed Slovakia to play their way back into the game and substitute Ondrej Duda gave them a deserved equaliser. But as Slovakia threatened to turn the game in their favour, substitute Hal Robson-Kanu grabbed the winner for Wales.

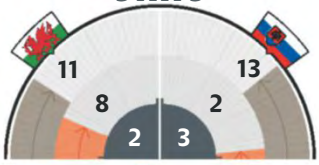
KEY MOMENT

Just as it looked as if the points would be shared, Wales broke through Bale and Aaron Ramsey, and the ball found its way through to Robson-Kanu, whose weak shot deceived keeper Matus Kozacik.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Wales showed they are more than a one-man team, but Bale set them on their way with a brilliant free-kick to open the scoring.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

Slovakia had not had a shot on target before the double substitution that changed the game and Duda scored his first competitive goal

WHO SAID WHAT

"There was a part of the game where we totally dominated. We put a lot of pressure on them and they were just kicking the ball away."
Slovakia's Martin Skrtel

TALKING POINT

Wales opted to start without a target man, with Hal Robson-Kanu on the bench and Jonny Williams starting behind Bale. And the tactic worked as Williams harried the Slovakia defence and won the free-kick that Bale scored from. When Robson-Kanu did appear as a sub he scrambled home the winner.

Late show...Vasili Berezutski (partially hidden) heads Russia's equaliser against England

June 11, 2016

ENGLAND (0) **1**
(Dier 73)

RUSSIA (0) **1**
(V Berezutski 90+2)

Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Ref: Rizzoli (Ita) Att: 62,343

ENGLAND: Hart: Walker, Cahill, Smalling, Rose; Alli, Dier, Rooney (Wilshere 78); Lallana, Kane, Sterling (Milner 87)
Booked: ■ Cahill 62
RUSSIA: Akinfeev; Smolnikov, Ignashevich, V Berezutski, Schennikov; Neustadter (Glushakov 80), Golovin (Shirokov 77); Smolov (Mamaev 85), Shatov, Kokorin; Dzyuba
Booked: ■ Schennikov 72

LATE GOAL DENIES ENGLAND

An enterprising England hit the ground running against an injury-depleted Russia, but it took until the second half for their dominance to be rewarded. An Eric Dier free-kick appeared to have given Roy Hodgson's side all three points, but Russia earned a share of the spoils with a stoppage-time header from Vasili Berezutski.

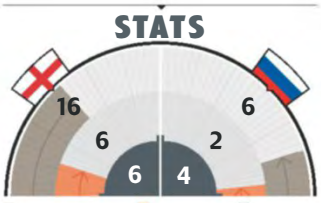
KEY MOMENT

Russia offered very little from an attacking point of view but they only needed the one chance to exploit England's defensive vulnerabilities. Just as it looked like England's overall superiority would be rewarded with the points, up popped the Russian captain to grab an equaliser.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Dier capped a typically steady performance in the midfield holding role with a wonderful free-kick from the edge of the area.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

England maintained their unenviable record of never having won their opening game at the finals of a European Championship.

WHO SAID WHAT

"When you concede with a minute left, it is a bitter disappointment. After one dodgy spell at the start of the second half, if we take away that 15 minutes we were in total control."
England manager Roy Hodgson

TALKING POINT

The decision to field Wayne Rooney in a midfield role for the first time in his 13-year international career was a qualified success. The England skipper was at the heart of much of his side's best work during the first 45 minutes. However, he did fade after the half-time break, a period which coincided with Russia's best spell, and was eventually replaced by Jack Wilshere.

June 15, 2016

RUSSIA (0) 1
(Glushakov 80)

SLOVAKIA (2) 2
(Weiss 32, Hamsik 45)

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille
Ref: Skomina (Sln). Att: 38,989

RUSSIA: Akinfeev; Smolnikov, Ignashevich, V Berezutski, Schennikov; Neustadter (Glushakov 46), Golovin (Mamaev 46); Kokorin (Shirokov 75), Shatov, Smolov; Dzyuba
SLOVAKIA: Kozacik; Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Hubocan; Pecovsky; Mak (Duris 80), Kucka, Hamsik, Weiss (Svento 72); Duda (Nemec 67)
Booked: ■ Durica 46

HAMSIK SEALS WIN

Russia tried to play a more open game than they had first time out against England. However, they left themselves extremely vulnerable at the back and were exposed by Marek Hamsik, who set up Vladimir Weiss for the opening goal and scored a brilliant second himself. Russia staged a late rally, with Denis Glushakov's goal prompting a furious final few minutes as Slovakia hung on for all three points.

KEY MOMENT

Hamsik's goal just before half-time proved vital. Taking advantage of slack Russian defending at a corner, the Napoli midfielder collected the ball on the left flank and turned inside Oleg Shatov. From a tight angle, he still had a lot to do, but he struck a spectacular shot that flew past Igor Akinfeev and crashed in off the far post.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Hamsik set up Slovakia's first goal for Weiss with a sumptuous pass and then scored a spectacular goal himself to put his side firmly in control until Russia's late rally.

STATS

■ GOAL ATTEMPTS ■ ON TARGET ■ CORNERS

MATTER OF FACT

Vladimir Weiss of Qatar's Al Gharafa became the first player to score at a European Championship while playing for a non-European club.

WHO SAID WHAT

"He has matured as a person and as a player at Napoli. He is ready to play for a very big club."

Slovakia coach Jan Kozak on Marek Hamsik

TALKING POINT

Threatened with expulsion from the tournament if their fans misbehaved, Russia's players did their bit to try and stage an early exit with their performance on the pitch. Would UEFA act after a flare was let off in the Russian end following substitute Glushakov's goal?

Outnumbered...Russia's Artem Dzyuba loses out to Martin Skrtel (left) and Jan Durica

June 16, 2016

ENGLAND (0) 2
(Vardy 56, Sturridge 90+2)

WALES (1) 1
(Bale 42)

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens
Ref: Brych (Ger). Att: 34,033

ENGLAND: Hart; Walker, Smalling, Cahill, Rose; Alli, Dier, Rooney; Lallana (Rashford 73), Kane (Vardy 46), Sterling (Sturridge 46)
WALES: Hennessey; Gunter, Chester, A Williams, Davies, Taylor; Ramsey, Ledley (Edwards 67), Allen; Bale Robson-Kanu (J Williams 72)
Booked: ■ Davies 61

Saviour...England sub Daniel Sturridge

SUBS CHANGE THE GAME

Substitute Daniel Sturridge snatched an injury-time winner as England came from behind after Gareth Bale had given Wales the lead with a free-kick that slipped through the hands of Joe Hart. Roy Hodgson threw caution to the wind in the second half, bringing on strikers Jamie Vardy and Sturridge at half-time. Vardy equalised when he pounced on a loose ball headed back towards goal by Wales captain Ashley Williams and then Sturridge popped up to score the dramatic winner in injury-time.

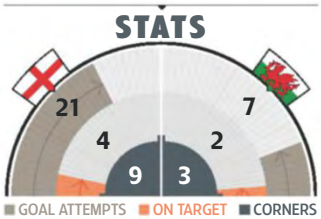
KEY MOMENT

Just when it looked as if Wales would hold out and England's search for a winner was in vain, Sturridge dodged his way through the Wales back line. When full-back Chris Gunter slipped, he poked the ball over him and inside Wayne Hennessey's near post.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Wales struggled to cope with the runs down the right flank of full-back Kyle Walker. His cross was headed down by Wales defender Ashley Williams into the path of Vardy for England's equaliser.

STATS



■ GOAL ATTEMPTS ■ ON TARGET ■ CORNERS

MATTER OF FACT

This was the first time that England had managed to win a game at a major tournament after being behind at half-time.

WHO SAID WHAT

"It's a long time since myself and the coaching staff have showed such joy. When the chances don't go in and you've compounded your task by conceding that Gareth Bale goal, it really is a happy moment when both the substitutes score. I thought it was on the cards all the way through the second half."

England manager Roy Hodgson

TALKING POINT

Hodgson had earned praise for his positive mindset in selecting five forwards in his tournament squad. Yet against Wales he opted for the one striker, Harry Kane, flanked by winger Raheem Sterling, who missed England's best chance of the first half, and midfielder Adam Lallana. To Hodgson's credit, he made bold changes at the break, replacing Kane and the ineffective Sterling with Vardy and Sturridge. England ended the match with a three-man forward line, with Marcus Rashford having replaced Lallana, and their pressure told when Sturridge grabbed a late, late winner.

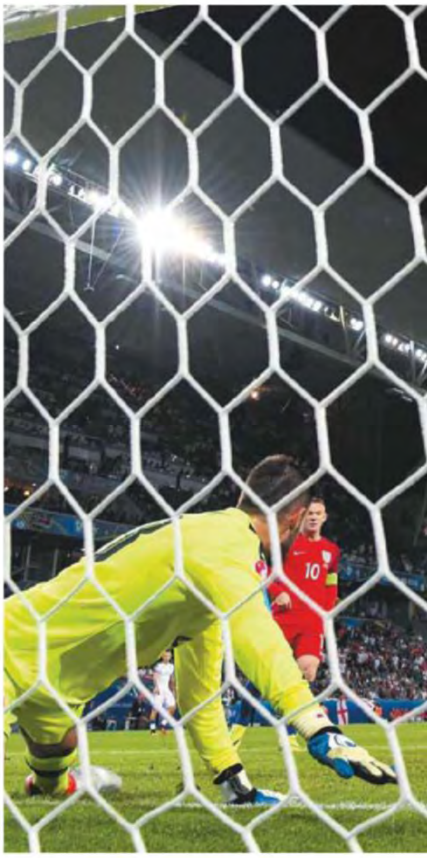
June 20, 2016

SLOVAKIA (0) 0

ENGLAND (0) 0

Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, Saint-Etienne
Ref: Velasco Carballo (Spa). Att: 39,051

SLOVAKIA: Kozacik; Pekarik, Skrtel,

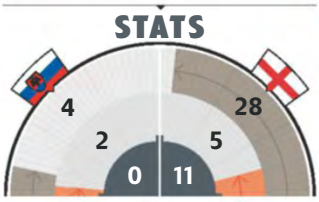


Durica, Hubocan; Kucka, Pecovsky (Gyomber 67), Hamsik; Mak, Weiss (Skriniar 78); Duda (Svento 57)
Booked: Pecovksy 24
ENGLAND: Hart; Clyne, Smalling, Cahill, Bertrand; Henderson, Dier, Wilshere (Rooney 56); Lallana (Alli 61), Vardy, Sturridge (Kane 76)
Booked: Bertrand 52

CHANGES BACKFIRE
A much-changed England side dominated possession but could not find a way through the massed ranks of Slovakia's defence, who were happy to play for a point. Keeper Matus Kozacik made a series of important saves, denying Jamie Vardy, Adam Lallana and Daniel Sturridge, while captain Martin Skrtel also cleared off the line from England substitute Dele Alli.

KEY MOMENT
Adam Lallana saw his fierce shot parried away by Kozacik after fine build-up play by Jordan Henderson and Nathaniel Clyne on the half hour. It was the closest England came despite enjoying the lion's share of possession.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Slovakia keeper Kozacik made a number of excellent saves, denying England on several occasions to earn his side a draw.



MATTER OF FACT
England failed to score in the first half of a European Championship game for the fifth time in succession.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I never thought I'd see England dominate three games like we have done. Soon we will make someone pay. We will score goals one day."
England manager Roy Hodgson

TALKING POINT
Roy Hodgson made significant changes for England's final group game, resting Wayne Rooney, Alli, and full-backs Kyle Walker and Danny Rose, as well as starting with Vardy and Sturridge, the strikers who had such an impact as half-time substitutes against Wales. Jordan Henderson and Jack Wilshere came into midfield, with Henderson particularly effective and linking well with Liverpool team-mate Sturridge, while Wilshere was less of a success and was replaced by Rooney early in the second half. England ended the game with many of the players Hodgson had begun the group stage with – including Rooney, Alli and Harry Kane – but no one could find a way through a defence that was determined to cling on for a point.

Rearguard action...Slovakia clear against England

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
England	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Russia	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

June 20, 2016

RUSSIA (0) **0**
WALES (2) **3**
(Ramsey 11, Taylor 20, Bale 67)

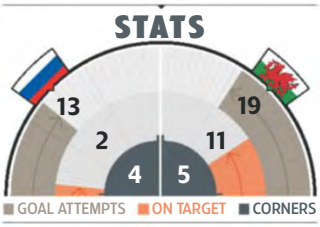
Stadium Municipal, Toulouse
Ref: Eriksson (Swe). Att: 28,840

RUSSIA: Akinfeev; Smolnikov Ignashevich, V Berezutski (A Berezutski 46), Kombarov; Glushakov, Mamaev; Kokorin, Shirokov (Golovin 52), Smolov (Samedov 70); Dzyuba
Booked: Mamaev 64
WALES: Hennessey; Gunter, Chester, A Williams, Davies, Taylor; Allen (Edwards 74), Ledley (King 75); Ramsey, Bale (Church 83); Vokes
Booked: Vokes 16

WELSH TAKE TOP SPOT
Victory over an abject Russia meant that Wales topped the group and qualified for the knockout stage of a major tournament for the first time since 1958. The match as a contest was over after just 10 minutes when Aaron Ramsey latched on to Joe Allen's incisive pass and dinked the ball over the onrushing Igor Akinfeev. Neil Taylor doubled the lead after good work from Gareth Bale, who then beat the offside trap to collect a clever pass from Ramsey and score a third goal in the second half.

KEY MOMENT
Leonid Slutsky's Russia had been a huge disappointment at the finals, but at least they were competitive – until Ramsey opened the scoring and Wales carved them open at will.

MAN OF THE MATCH
The trademark lung-busting runs of Bale had been rarely seen up until now at Euro 2016, but in Toulouse he constantly had Russia on the back foot.



MATTER OF FACT
By scoring in all three group games, Bale joined a select group of Michel Platini, Hristo Stoichkov, Alan Shearer, Savo Milosevic, Milan Baros and Ruud Van Nistelrooy.

Three in a row...Gareth Bale (left) joined a select group with his group goals in France

WHO SAID WHAT
"I've never seen a better performance from any Welsh team than that. On the back of a crushing defeat to England, it shows the character of this team."
Wales manager Chris Coleman

TALKING POINT
Although Wales rely heavily on Bale, manager Chris Coleman refuses to accept they are a one-man team and praised the team spirit. Bale himself described the win against Russia as "probably the best performance I've been involved in with Wales".

June 12, 2016

POLAND (0) 1
(Milik 51)

N IRELAND (0) 0

Allianz Riviera, Nice
Ref: Hategan (Rom). Att: 33,742

POLAND: Szczesny; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jedrzejczyk; Blaszczykowski (Grosicki 80), Krychowiak, Maczynski (Jodlowiec 78), Kapustka (Peszko 88); Milik; Lewandowski
Booked: Kapustka 65, Piszczek 89
NORTHERN IRELAND: McGovern; McLaughlin, Cathcart, J Evans, McAuley; McNair (Dallas 46), Norwood, Davis, Baird (Ward 76), Ferguson (Washington 66); Lafferty
Booked: Cathcart 69

NO PLAN B
Arkadiusz Milik's drilled finish secured a deserved victory for Poland over a disappointing Northern Ireland. Although they defended doggedly, and kept Robert Lewandowski under wraps, Michael O'Neill's side did not appear to have a Plan B when they fell behind.

KEY MOMENT
Having missed two easier chances earlier on, Milik must have been relieved to have hit the target shortly after the interval.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Bartosz Kapustka was a thorn in Northern Ireland's side throughout. The 19-year-old delivered a mature performance that will not have escaped the attention of the scouts.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT
Poland's victory was their first ever in a European Championship – at the third time of asking – and raised hope of reaching the knockout stage for the first time.

WHO SAID WHAT
"If I was to assess how I played, there were good moments, there were slightly worse ones – some stupid mistakes and missed chances. But a striker is judged on goals and I finally did my job."
Arkadiusz Milik

TALKING POINT
The narrow scoreline did not reflect the balance of play in a game which Northern Ireland never looked like scoring. Poland enjoyed 60 per cent possession and only a lack of ruthlessness in front of goal kept the game competitive.

June 12, 2016

GERMANY (1) 2
(Mustafi 19, Schweinsteiger 90+2)

UKRAINE (0) 0

Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille
Ref: Atkinson (Eng). Att: 43,035

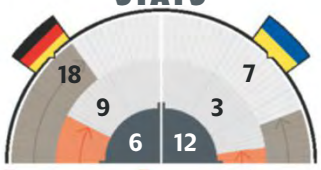
GERMANY: Neuer; Howedes, Boateng, Mustafi, Hector; Khedira, Kroos; Muller, Ozil, Draxler (Schurrle 78); Gotze (Schweinsteiger 90)
UKRAINE: Pyatov; Fedetskiy, Khacheridi, Rakitskiy, Shevchuk; Sydorchuk, Stepanenko; Yarmolenko, Kovalenko (Zinchenko 73), Konoplyanka; Zozulya (Seleznyov 66)
Booked: Konoplyanka 68

FAR FROM CONVINCING
Germany opened with a 2-0 win but were far from convincing at the back without the injured Mats Hummels. His replacement, Shkodran Mustafi, scored the opening goal but was also part of a German defence that wobbled under pressure in the first half. An acrobatic goal-line clearance from Jerome Boateng and some fine saves from Manuel Neuer denied Ukraine an equaliser, but Germany were more comfortable in the second half and substitute Bastian Schweinsteiger added a second on the counter-attack with virtually the last kick of the game.

KEY MOMENT
Boateng's goal-line clearance to deny Yevhen Konoplyanka, with half-time approaching and just when it looked as if Ukraine would take advantage of German uncertainties in defence, was vital. Boateng, rather than the ball, ended up in the back of the net and Ukraine then had a goal disallowed for offside as Germany limped into the break.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Toni Kroos delivered the free-kick from which Mustafi scored the opening goal and then led the counter-attack which ended in Schweinsteiger getting the second.

STATS



Close...Jerome Boateng clears off the line to deny Ukraine an equaliser against Germany

MATTER OF FACT
Ten of Germany's starting line-up played at the 2014 World Cup.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It's just incredible. After all the injuries...something like this happens. I can't play 90 or 120 minutes yet but I'm feeling like I can play. I feel really good. If I stay healthy, I'll be able to play more."
Germany's Bastian Schweinsteiger

TALKING POINT
A tale of two Marios and a Shkodran. Germany started with Mario Gotze, instead of Mario Gomez, which gave them more mobility in attack, however their opening goal came from an unlikely source in one-time Everton reject Mustafi, who recorded his first international goal with a powerful header.

June 16, 2016

UKRAINE (0) 0

N IRELAND (0) 2
(McAuley 49, McGinn 90+6)

Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon
Ref: Kralovec (CzR). Att: 51,043

UKRAINE: Pyatov; Fedetskiy, Khacheridi, Rakitskiy, Shevchuk; Stepanenko, Sydorchuk (Garmash 76); Yarmolenko, Kovalenko, Konoplyanka (Zinchenko 83); Seleznyov (Zozulya 71)
Booked: Seleznyov 40, Sydorchuk 67
NORTHERN IRELAND: McGovern, Hughes, McAuley Cathcart, J Evans; Norwood; Ward (McGinn 69), C Evans (McNair 90+3), Davis, Dallas; Washington (Magennis 84)

Job done...Poland's Arkadiusz Milik finds the target against Northern Ireland

Booked: Ward 63, Dallas 87, J Evans 90+4

KINGS OF LYON

Gareth McAuley and Niall McGinn were the heroes as Northern Ireland beat Ukraine 2-0 in the lashing rain to record their first-ever European Championship victory. It was also the first time they had won at a finals since beating hosts Spain in Valencia in 1982 and Irish defending became increasing frantic after McAuley's header from a free-kick gave them the lead in a match of few clear opportunities. The match was halted briefly in the 58th minute due to a hailstorm before substitute McGinn grabbed a second goal late on.

KEY MOMENT

McAuley rose above Yevhen Khacheridi at the far post to guide Oliver Norwood's free-kick back across goal for Northern Ireland's first goal at a Euro finals.

Dogged...Northern Ireland keep out Ukraine

MAN OF THE MATCH

Veteran Ireland defender McAuley settled the game with his headed opening goal.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT

Both sets of fans applauded in the 24th minute in tribute to Darren Rodgers, a 24-year-old Northern Ireland fan who had died in Nice a few days earlier.

WHO SAID WHAT

"My head was hurting from one or two hailstones, to be honest. [The delay] wasn't ideal at that point. Thankfully it was brief. When you're 1-0 ahead, you don't want anything to upset your momentum"

Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill

TALKING POINT

Northern Ireland showed more attacking intent than against Poland after manager Michael O'Neill made a number of changes from the opening game against Poland, including dropping striker Kyle Lafferty to the bench. Conor Washington came in and worked hard to close down Ukraine's defenders, while his team-mates closely marshalled Ukraine's wide men Andriy Yarmolenko and Yevhen Konoplyanka. Centre-forward Yevhen Seleznyov enjoyed few touches, let alone chances, while Northern Ireland's main threat again came from set-pieces.

June 16, 2016

GERMANY (0) 0
POLAND (0) 0

Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Ref: Kuipers (Hol). Att: 73,648

GERMANY: Neuer; Howedes, Boateng, Hummels, Hector; Khedira, Kroos; Muller, Ozil, Draxler (Gomez 71); Gotze (Schurrle 66)
Booked: Khedira 3, Ozil 34, Boateng 67
POLAND: Fabianski; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jedrzejczyk; Krychowiak, Maczynski (Jodlowiec 76); Blaszczykowski (Kapustka 80), Milik, Grosicki (Peszko 87); Lewandowski

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Poland	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
N Ireland	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

GROUP C

Booked: Maczynski 45, Grosicki 55, Peszko 90+3

DEFENCES WIN THE DAY

A match which never really got going and seemed destined to remain goalless from the moment misfiring Arkadiusz Milik contrived to miss the game's only decent chance shortly after the interval. To say that the defences were on top would be an understatement in what was a disappointing contest.

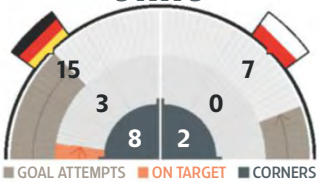
KEY MOMENT

Milik has been unable to bring his form from the qualifying campaign into the tournament, and against Germany he missed the best chance of the game when he failed to make contact with a perfectly weighted Kamil Grosicki cross. As the game wore on he cut an increasingly forlorn figure, with his plight not helped by the haranguing he received from a visibly frustrated Poland captain Robert Lewandowski.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Germany defender Jerome Boateng produced a flawless performance which included one fantastic block to deny his Bayern Munich club-mate Lewandowski.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

Germany extended their unbeaten run against Poland in major tournament finals to five games.

WHO SAID WHAT

"Getting a point from the world champions is a valuable achievement. At first we gave our opponents too much respect. We played very defensively and were missing the players up front to create chances."

Poland's Robert Lewandowski

TALKING POINT

How do you solve a problem like Mario? Joachim Low persisted with his experiment of playing Mario Gotze as a lone front man, but again the Bayern Munich player looked lost in a new, unaccustomed role. Two years on from the retirement of all-time leading goalscorer Miroslav Klose and Germany were still trying to fill the huge void.

Tough...Grzegorz Krychowiak (left) and Arkadiusz Milik get to grips with Mesut Ozil

June 21, 2016

N IRELAND (0) 0
GERMANY (1) 1
(Gomez 30)

Parc des Princes, Paris
Ref: Turpin (Fra). Att: 44,125

NORTHERN IRELAND: McGovern; Hughes, McAuley, Cathcart, J Evans; Ward (Magennis 70), C Evans (McGinn 84), Davis, Norwood, Dallas; Washington (Lafferty 59)
GERMANY: Neuer; Kimmich, Boateng (Howedes 76), Hummels, Hector; Khedira (Schweinsteiger 69), Kroos; Muller, Ozil, Gotze (Schurrle 55); Gomez

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

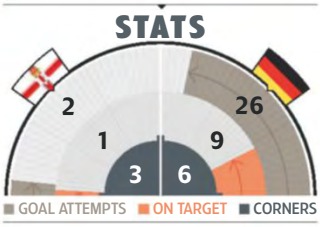
Outnumbered but not outsung, Northern Ireland's fans chanted "it's just like watching Brazil" and if the

"Maybe we don't have the right mentality"
Ukraine captain Ruslan Rotan

world, champions had taken their chances the score could have easily been 7-1. However, Mario Gomez's first-half goal was all Germany had to show for their dominance as Irish keeper Michael McGovern produced a series of fine saves.

KEY MOMENT
Mesut Ozil played in Gomez, who scored just before the half hour after exchanging passes with Thomas Muller. However, it was the only time they could penetrate the Irish rearguard as they claimed top spot in the group.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Ozil was outstanding, his one-touch passing unlocking Northern Ireland's defence on several occasions.



MATTER OF FACT
Thomas Muller has scored 10 goals in 13 World Cup finals matches, but after this game he had zero goals in seven Euro finals appearances.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Germany had a slow start but they were excellent today, we could not get out. I've never had such a busy night and I've never played against such quality opposition."
Northern Ireland goalkeeper Michael McGovern

TALKING POINT
With the much-criticised Mario Gotze dropping back into midfield, centre-forward Gomez started for the first time this tournament and scored the crucial goal. However, he missed a number of very good other chances in the second half – a reminder of why Joachim Low had been reluctant to start him in previous games.

June 21, 2016

UKRAINE (0) **0**
POLAND (0) **1**
(Blaszczykowski 54)

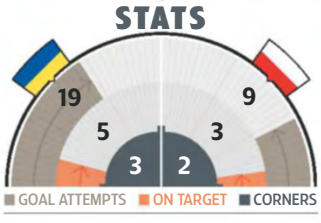
Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Ref: Moen (Nor). Att: 58,874

UKRAINE: Pyatov; Fedetskiy Khacheridi, Kucher, Butko; Rotan, Stepanenko; Yarmolenko, Zinchenko (Kovalenko 73), Konoplyanka; Zozulya (Tymoshchuk 90+2)
Booked: Rotan 25, Kucher 38
POLAND: Fabianski; Cionek, Glik, Pazdan, Jedrzejczyk; Krychowiak, Jodlowiec; Kapustka (Grosicki 71), Zielinski (Blaszczykowski 46), Milik (Starzynski 90+3); Lewandowski
Booked: Kapustka 60

MOMENT OF QUALITY
Poland began at a blistering pace and could have scored twice in the opening seven minutes, but as the game wore on Ukraine grew in confidence and carved out some chances of their own. The game was settled when Poland produced a rare moment of quality, with Arkadiusz Milik feeding Jakub Blaszczykowski after a neatly worked short corner and the 30-year-old cutting inside to curl his shot into the far corner.

KEY MOMENT
Blaszczykowski's second-half goal ensured Poland's place in the last 16.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Ukraine captain Ruslan Rotan did what he could to drag his side back into the game and it was a reflection of his efforts that Ukraine were able to pin Poland back in their half for much of the second half.



MATTER OF FACT
This was the third time that Poland have appeared in the European Championship finals, but the first time they had made it out of the group stage.

Finisher...Mario Gomez (far right)

WHO SAID WHAT
"That Lewandowski hasn't scored yet is not a problem whatsoever. He's doing a lot of hard work and has had a big influence on our wins and how we have played. He's incredibly important for us. It's just a matter of time for him, he's creating a lot of chances, and I think he'll score in the next match."
Poland coach Adam Nawalka

TALKING POINT
With 13 goals Robert Lewandowski was the leading scorer in the qualifiers but the Bayern Munich striker failed to score in the group stage. If he managed to rediscover his goalscoring form, Poland would not be afraid of anyone.

Euro blank...Northern Ireland goalkeeper Michael McGovern saves at the feet of Germany's Thomas Muller

Perfect...Gerard Pique heads home Andres Iniesta's cross

June 12, 2016

TURKEY (0) **0**

CROATIA (1) **1**
(Modric 41)

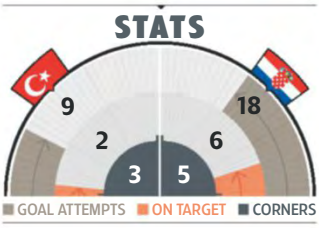
Parc des Princes, Paris
Ref: Eriksson (Swe). Att: 43,842

TURKEY: Volkan Babacan; Gokhan Gonul, Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, Caner Erkin; Ozan Tufan, Selcuk Inan, Oguzhan Ozyakup (Volkan Sen 46); Calhanoglu, Arda Turan (Burak Yilmaz 65); Cenk Tosun (Mor 69)
Booked: ■ Cenk Tosun 31, ■ Hakan Balta 48, ■ Volkan Sen 90+1
CROATIA: Subasic; Srna, Corluka, Vida, Strinic; Modric, Badelj; Brozovic, Rakitic (Schildenfeld 90), Perisic (Kramaric 87); Mandzukic (Pjaca 90+3)
Booked: ■ Strinic 80

MODRIC THE STAR TURN
Luka Modric's goal was enough to secure victory and silence Turkey's noisy fans at the end of a niggly first half. Croatia had plenty of chances to extend their lead after the break, as Darijo Srna and Ivan Perisic saw efforts hit the crossbar, while Marcelo Brozovic's header was tipped over.

KEY MOMENT
Modric scored with a brilliantly executed volley from 25 yards after Turkey midfielder Selcuk Inan failed to get distance with an up-and-under clearance from a corner.

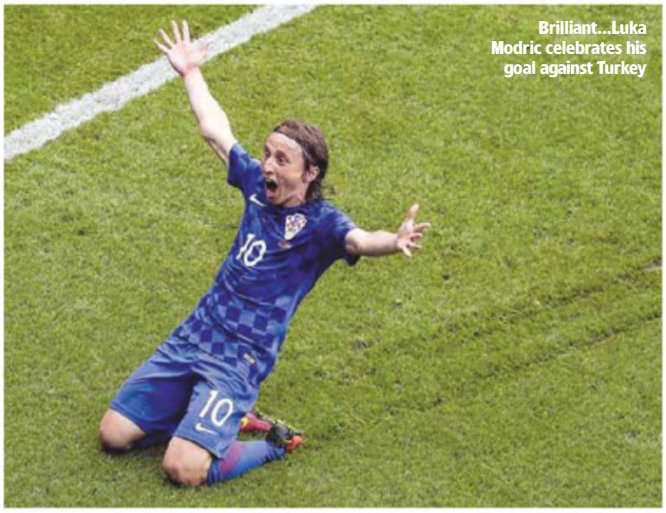
MAN OF THE MATCH
In a tight first half in which he had little chance to demonstrate his playmaking skills, Modric showed superb technique to get his volley on target for Croatia's goal. Then, as Turkey chased the game in the second half, he oversaw Croatia's midfield domination.



MATTER OF FACT
Croatia have yet to lose when Modric has scored, winning 10 and drawing one so far.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Luka Modric scored a fantastic goal, and that is the Luka we have to see in every game."
Croatia's Ivan Perisic

TALKING POINT
While Modric took his volley brilliantly, he was aided by poor goalkeeping from Volkan Babacan, who failed to make contact with the bouncing ball and should not have been beaten from that distance. After the mistakes by the Romania and Albania custodians in the opening two games, poor goalkeeping was becoming an early theme of the tournament.


Brilliant...Luka Modric celebrates his goal against Turkey

June 13, 2016

SPAIN (0) **1**
(Pique 87)

CZECH REP (0) **0**

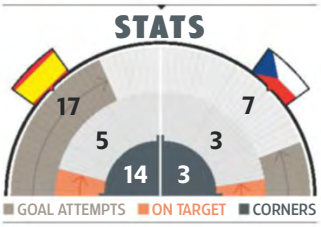
Stadium Municipal, Toulouse
Ref: Marciniak (Pol). Att: 29,400

SPAIN: De Gea; Juanfran, Pique, Ramos, Alba; Fabregas (Thiago 70), Busquets, Iniesta; Silva, Nolito (Pedro 82), Morata (Aduriz 62)
CZECH REPUBLIC: Cech; Kaderabek, Sivok, Hubnik, Limbersky; Darida, Plasil; Gebre Selassie (Sural 86), Rosicky (Pavelka 88), Krejci; Necid (Lafata 75)
Booked: ■ Limbersky 61

DRAW ON THE CARDS
Spain took a while to get going but once they found their passing range they were able to pin the Czechs back in their own half for almost the entire game. Prompted by the peerless Andres Iniesta, chances were created, but a resolute defence kept the holders at bay. A draw looked on the cards until, with three minutes remaining, Iniesta lofted an inch-perfect cross onto the head of Gerard Pique to secure the points.

KEY MOMENT
The Czech Republic offered little going forward, but midway through the second half they came close to taking the lead. It took a marvellous piece of defending from the alert Cesc Fabregas to hook the ball away from under his own bar and deny Tomas Necid a certain goal.

MAN OF THE MATCH
As the senior player in the Spanish midfield these days, Iniesta assumed responsibility and always looked the man most likely to unlock a dogged Czech defence. He capped a typically dynamic performance with a wonderfully weighted cross for the goal.



MATTER OF FACT
Spain set a record of 13 matches without defeat in the Euro finals. They had not lost since being beaten 1-0 by Portugal in 2004.

WHO SAID WHAT
"The first thing that's important is to get the three points. The second thing is the players' attitude. Believing in the victory is important for winning."
Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque

TALKING POINT
Spain pioneered the striker-less formation in 2012 and, four years on, Vicente Del Bosque still seems no closer to unearthing a front man for the post-David Villa era. Alvaro Morata started before being replaced by Aritz Aduriz, but neither inspired confidence for the greater challenges that lay ahead.

June 17, 2016

CZECH REP (0) **2**
(Skoda 76, Necid pen 89)

CROATIA (1) **2**
(Perisic 37, Rakitic 59)

Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, Saint-Etienne
Ref: Clattenburg (Eng). Att: 38,376

CZECH REPUBLIC: Cech; Kaderabek, Sivok, Hubnik, Limbersky; Darida, Plasil (Necid 86); Skalak (Sural 67), Rosicky, Krejci; Lafata (Skoda 67)
Booked: ■ Sivok 72
CROATIA: Subasic; Srna, Corluka, Vida, Strinic (Vrsaljko 90+3); Modric (Kovacic 62), Badelj; Brozovic, Rakitic (Schildenfeld 90+2), Perisic; Mandzukic
Booked: ■ Badelj 14, ■ Brozovic 74, ■ Vida 88

FANS COST CROATIA

Croatia were left to rue the squandering of two points and the part played in it by their own supporters. When Ivan Perisic and Ivan Rakitic put Croatia 2-0 ahead, there seemed no way back for the Czech Republic. But the departure, through injury, of Luka Modric robbed Ante Cacic's side of their key player. Nonetheless, it was against the run of play when the Czechs pulled a goal back via a header from substitute Milan Skoda. The game was then turned on its head late on when play was halted briefly after Croatian fans threw flares onto the pitch. Shortly after the restart, the ball struck Domagoj Vida's hand and referee Mark Clattenburg pointed to the spot, with substitute Tomas Necid hammering home the resulting penalty kick.

KEY MOMENT

Two goals to the good and seemingly cruising, things were looking comfortable for Croatia until Modric fell to the ground. Coach Cacic took the precaution of withdrawing him, but Croatia's stranglehold on midfield disappeared with the Real Madrid man's departure.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Modric ran the show for Croatia and it was no coincidence that his side's grasp on the game weakened when he left the pitch through injury shortly after the second Croatia goal.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT

Croatia captain Darijo Srna started the match, despite his father passing away during the team's 1-0 win over Turkey on Sunday.

WHO SAID WHAT

"At half-time, I told the players that if they don't want to play football, we have no place here; Croatia were much better. We didn't have any chances, we just kicked the ball away. In the second half we got better and that's how we equalised."

Pavel Vrba, Czech Republic coach

Paying the penalty...Tomas Necid equalises

TALKING POINT

With Croatia leading 2-1 the game was temporarily suspended when flares were thrown on to the pitch by some of their fans. Shortly afterwards, while referee Mark Clattenburg consulted with UEFA officials about how to proceed, fighting broke out between rival groups of Croatian supporters. Eventually order was restored, but shortly afterwards Vida gave away the penalty which Necid duly converted.

June 17, 2016

SPAIN (2) **3**
(Morata 34, 48, Nolito 37)

TURKEY (0) **0**

Allianz Riviera, Nice
Ref: Mazic (Ser) Att: 33,409

SPAIN: De Gea; Juanfran, Pique, Ramos, Alba (Azpilicueta 81); Fabregas (Koke 71), Busquets, Iniesta; Silva (Bruno 64), Morata, Nolito
Booked: ■ Ramos 2
TURKEY: Volkan Babacan; Gokhan Gonul, Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, Caner Erkin; Calhanoglu (Sahin 46), Ozan Tufan, Selcuk Inan (Younes Malli 70), Oguzhan Ozyakup (Olcay Sahan 62); Arda Turan; Burak Yilmaz
Booked: ■ Burak Yilmaz 9, ■ Ozan Tufan 41

In control...Spain (in red) turn over Turkey

CHAMPS IN CRUISE CONTROL

The defending European champions cruised into the knockout stage with this straightforward 3-0 victory. Turkey were unfortunate bystanders as the Spanish found their stride, once again dictated by the artistry of Andres Iniesta in midfield and finished in style by forwards Nolito and Alvaro Morata.

KEY MOMENT

Spain's second goal was a slick passing move, played out from the back and finished off by Nolito. The only touch their opponents managed to get on the ball as it passed from one end of the pitch to the other was when Turkish defender Mehmet Topal miscued his header into the path of Nolito.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Nolito and Alvaro Morata grabbed all the headlines with their goals, but Iniesta gave another masterclass in midfield.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT

Spain's impressively crafted third goal involved 21 passes and saw every player with the exception of Gerard Pique and goalkeeper David De Gea have a touch.

WHO SAID WHAT

"Tonight I saw a team that I don't like, one that gives up and just accepts defeat. Those who know my footballing and coaching career, my attitude and personality, will know that I have no business with those who just give up. I can't come to terms with it and I apologise on behalf of myself and the team to everyone."

Fatih Terim, Turkey coach

TALKING POINT

Amazingly, Spain were unchanged for the first time in 53 matches under Vicente Del Bosque. The coach's continued selection of the inexperienced Nolito had been questioned earlier in the tournament, but the Celta Vigo striker answered his critics with a wonderfully measured assist for Morata's opener and scored himself, an instinctive finish bringing him his fifth goal in as many games for Spain. Morata scored twice and dovetailed perfectly with the livewire Nolito. With Morata, a penalty-box operator, and Nolito buzzing around him, Spain had a clear sense of purpose: a cutting edge to finish their slick midfield possession.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Spain	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Turkey	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Czech Rep	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

June 21, 2016

CROATIA (1) **2**
(N Kalinic 45, Perisic 87)

SPAIN (1) **1**
(Morata 7)

Stade de Bordeaux
Ref: Kuipers (Hol). Att: 37,245

CROATIA: Subasic; Srna, Corluka, Jedvaj, Vrsaljko; Rog (Kovacic 82), Badelj; Perisic (Kramaric 90+4), Rakitic, Pjaca (Cop 90+2); N Kalinic
Booked: Rog 29, Srna 70, Vrsaljko 70, Perisic 88
SPAIN: De Gea; Juanfran, Pique, Ramos, Alba; Fabregas, Busquets (Thiago 84), Iniesta; Silva, Morata (Aduriz 67), Nolito (Bruno 60)

CROATIA SHOCK HOLDERS

Without the injured Luka Modric and Mario Mandzukic, and protecting three players who were on yellow cards, Croatia made five changes yet still beat the defending champions. Spain led after David Silva's superb reverse pass played in Cesc Fabregas and his cross was tapped home by Alvaro Morata, but Nikola Kalinic equalised with a near-post backheel just before half-time. Sergio Ramos then missed a second-half penalty for Spain before Ivan Perisic won it late on with a goal on the break.

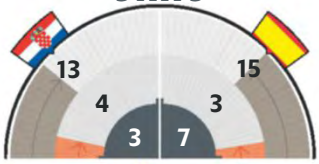
KEY MOMENT

With the scores level, Spain were awarded what appeared to be a soft penalty, but Danijel Subasic saved Ramos' 72nd-minute spot-kick – even though he was well off his line and could have had no complaints if the referee ordered it to be retaken.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Winning his 50th cap for his country, Perisic provided the cross for Kalinic's equaliser and then beat David De Gea at his near post to inflict Spain's first defeat at a Euro finals since 2004.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

Croatia's opening goal was the first conceded by keeper De Gea in a competitive international and the first scored against Spain in a Euro finals game for 12 hours and 15 minutes. It was also the first time Spain had lost a game in a Euro finals tournament after being ahead.

WHO SAID WHAT

"They're a really good side. It was quite a strange game. They are a very strong team. We dominated the game and created chances. I missed a penalty when I could have put us in front, but it wasn't to be."
Spain's Sergio Ramos

TALKING POINT

Beaten for the first time in 15 games at the European Championship finals, Spain also lost top spot in the group and now faced Italy in a repeat of the 2012 Final.

KEY MOMENT

Ozan Tufan killed off faint Czech Republic hopes with his second-half goal. Until that point, Pavel Vrba's men were competitive and had been looking for an equaliser.

Unstoppable...Ivan Perisic scores Croatia's winner

Solid...Czech Republic can find no way through the Turkish defence

June 21, 2016

CZECH REP (0) **0**

TURKEY (1) **2**
(Burak Yilmaz 10, Ozan Tufan 65)

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens
Ref: Collum (Sco). Att: 32,836

CZECH REPUBLIC: Cech; Kaderabek, Sivok, Hubnik, Pudil; Pavelka (Skoda 57); Dockal (Sural 71), Plasil (Kolar 90), Darida, Krejci; Necid
Booked: Plasil 36, Pavelka 39, Sural 87
TURKEY: Volkan Babacan; Gokhan Gonul, Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, Ismail Koybasi; Ozan Tufan, Selcuk Inan; Mor (Olcay Sahan 69), Arda Turan, Volkan Sen (Oguzhan Ozyakup 61); Burak Yılmaz (Cenk Tosun 90)
Booked: Ismail Koybasi 35, Hakan Balta 50

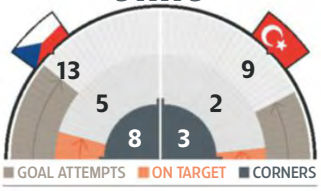
DUD CZECHS UP FRONT

The Czechs may have dominated the possession and territorial statistics but they were found wanting up front. In contrast, Turkey took the lead with a sweeping breakaway move which saw Emre Mor pick out Burak Yilmaz, who finished sharply at the near post. Without the injured Tomas Rosicky, the Czech Republic lacked the guile to break down a defence that was well-marshalled by the impressive Mehmet Topal, and Ozan Tufan wrapped up the points with a near-post shot that gave Petr Cech no chance.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Countless attacks were repelled by Mehmet Topal, who embodied the Turks' never-say-die attitude.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

Cech equalled Karel Poborsky's Czech record of 17 appearances at major tournaments.

WHO SAID WHAT

"If we had scored the opening goal, it would have been a different game altogether. However, it was Turkey that managed to score the opening goal and that gave them a spark."
Pavel Kaderabek, Czech Republic defender

TALKING POINT

Making only his fourth international appearance, European football could have an emerging star on its hands in 18-year-old Mor.

June 13, 2016

REP IRELAND (0) 1
(Hoolahan 48)

SWEDEN (0) 1
(Clark og 71)

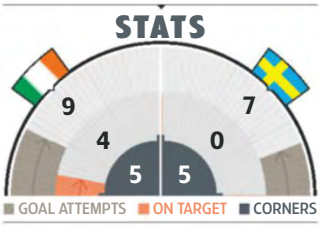
Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Ref: Mazic (Ser). Att: 73,419

REP IRELAND: Randolph; Coleman, O'Shea, Clark, Brady; McCarthy (McGeady 85), Whelan, Hendrick; Hoolahan (Keane 78); Walters (McClean 64), Long
Booked: McCarthy 43, Whelan 77
SWEDEN: Isaksson; Lustig (Johansson 45), Granqvist, Lindelof, Olsson; Larsson, Lewicki (Ekdal 86), Kallstrom, Forsberg; Ibrahimovic, Berg (Guidetti 59)
Booked: Lindelof 61

SPOILS ARE SHARED
The spoils were shared in a match that neither side could afford to lose. It was not a contest expected to feature much quality, but the Republic of Ireland took a deserved lead early in the second half through Wes Hoolahan. The Irish had dominated proceedings up until then but they sat back and invited Sweden to search for the equaliser. Despite some resolute defending to a succession of Swedish corners, the leveller eventually arrived when Ciaran Clark turned Zlatan Ibrahimovic's cross into his own net.

KEY MOMENT
Hoolahan's goal, a splendid half-volley after a run and cross from right-back Seamus Coleman, was no more than the Republic of Ireland deserved up until that point.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Hoolahan buzzed around behind Ireland's two forwards and took his goal superbly. Ireland's attacking play lost much of its impetus when he was substituted.



MATTER OF FACT
At an average age of 29.39 and with 11 players over the age of 30, Ireland had the oldest squad in the tournament.

WHO SAID WHAT
"We should have had the game out of sight at half-time but we just couldn't get the goal and we deservedly went ahead in the second half."
Republic of Ireland coach Martin O'Neill

TALKING POINT
For most of the game, Ibrahimovic had a frustrating time. He was on a different level to his Swedish team-mates and mostly found himself crowded out by an Irish defence that included two players who were relegated from the Premier League last season. And yet you can never ignore the 34-year-old. He still played a major part in his side's equaliser, flashing in the cross that struck the unfortunate Clark.

June 13, 2016

BELGIUM (0) 0

ITALY (1) 2
(Giaccherini 32, Pelle 90+3)

Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon
Ref: Clattenburg (Eng). Att: 55,408

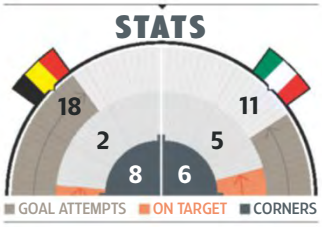
BELGIUM: Courtois; Ciman (Ferreira Carrasco 76), Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Witsel, Nainggolen (Martens 62); De Bruyne, Fellaini, Hazard; R Lukaku (Origi 73)
Booked: Vertonghen 90+2
ITALY: Buffon; Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Candreva, Parolo, De Rossi (Motta 78), Giaccherini, Darmian (De Sciglio 58); Eder (Immobile 75), Pelle
Booked: Chiellini 65, Eder 75, Bonucci 78, Motta 84

DEFENSIVE BLANKET
The *Azzurri* won the first clash of tournament heavyweights thanks to Emanuele Giaccherini's first-half goal and a late Graziano Pelle strike as Belgium's makeshift defence struggled to cope with the tactical framework laid down by Italy's coach, Antonio Conte. The Italian defensive blanket – which was secured with a series of late, cynical tactical fouls – rarely allowed Belgium's talented individuals any space in which to function. And when Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard did manage to find space, the finishing of Romelu Lukaku, and his replacement Divock Origi, let them down.

KEY MOMENT
A long, Pirlo-esque pass over the top from Leonardo Bonucci that Belgium's makeshift defence failed to deal with. Toby Alderweireld allowed the ball to pass over him, Giaccherini controlled with his first touch, and scored with his second.

Own goal...Ciaran Clark (in green) turns Zlatan Ibrahimovic's cross into Ireland's net

MAN OF THE MATCH
Bonucci teed up Giaccherini for the opening goal with a pass from his own half and played a dominant role in the centre of Italy's back three.



MATTER OF FACT
At an average of 31 years and 169 days, Italy's starting XI was the oldest in a Euro finals.

WHO SAID WHAT
"In a tournament like this, you need an alchemy, of people who get on well together, and the biggest satisfaction for me tonight is to see how happy they all were, also those on the bench. There's a very good spirit in this squad."
Italy coach Antonio Conte

TALKING POINT
On paper, Belgium had more natural talent, but Conte deployed a defensive formation that nullified the opposition's key individuals. In contrast, Belgium coach Marc Wilmots' tactics were baffling. Though denied first-choice centre-backs Vincent Kompany and Nic Lombaerts through injury, he deployed Jan Vertonghen at left-back and in the middle paired Thomas Vermaelen with Alderweireld, who was left exposed for Giaccherini's goal.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Belgium	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Ireland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Sweden	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Cynical...Eder brings down Axel Witsel

June 17, 2016

ITALY (0) 1
(Eder 88)

SWEDEN (0) 0

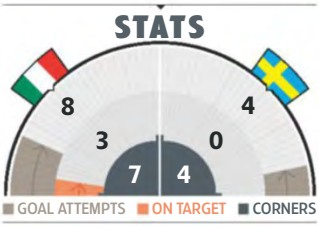
Stadium Municipal, Toulouse
Ref: Kassai (Hun). Att: 29,600

ITALY: Buffon; Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Candreva, Parolo, De Rossi (Motta 74), Giaccherini, Florenzi (Sturaro 85); Pelle (Zaza 60), Eder
Booked: De Rossi 69 Buffon 90+3
SWEDEN: Isaksson; Lindelof, Johansson, Granqvist, Olsson; Ekdal (Lewicki 79), Kallstrom; Larsson, Forsberg (Durmaz 79); Ibrahimovic, Guidetti (Berg 85)
Booked: Olsson 90

EDER BREAKS DEADLOCK
Brazilian-born striker Eder's late strike broke the deadlock as Italy sealed qualification for the knockout stage. Neither team had looked like scoring up until that point, with Sweden failing to hit the target at all. The closest Italy had come until then was a Marco Parolo header against the crossbar.

KEY MOMENT
Eder's goal was a bolt from the blue. From a throw-in, he chested the ball down and powered his way past three Swedish defenders before firing a shot past Andreas Isaksson.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Like his strike partner Graziano Pelle, Eder had done little to threaten Sweden's goal at any point during the match. But his late goal, out of nowhere, proved decisive.



MATTER OF FACT
Sweden became the first side not to manage a single shot on target in either of their opening two games at a European Championship finals since 1980.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I'm pleased for the lads because they deserve an awful lot and I hope these two wins can allow us to gain more confidence. We started with rather flat tyres and now we're trying to pump them up with every game."
Antonio Conte, Italy coach

TALKING POINT
Sweden, perhaps conscious of how Italy had beaten Belgium in their opening game, sat very deep and denied the Italians any real goalscoring chances, apart from Parolo's header and Eder's goal.

June 18, 2016

BELGIUM (0) 3
(R Lukaku 48, 70, Witsel 61)

REP IRELAND (0) 0

Stade de Bordeaux
Ref: Cakir (Tur). Att: 39,493

BELGIUM: Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Dembele (Nainggolan 57), Witsel; Ferreira Carrasco (Martens 64), De Bruyne, Hazard; R Lukaku (Benteke 83)
Booked: Vermaelen 49
REP IRELAND: Randolph; Coleman, O'Shea, Clark, Ward; McCarthy (McClean 62), Whelan; Hendrick, Hoolahan (McGeady 71), Brady; Long (Keane 78)
Booked: Hendrick 42

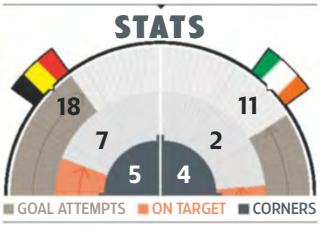
Counter-attack...Romelu Lukaku

PLAYERS RESPONDED
After their opening-game set-back against Italy, Belgium coach Marc Wilmots made a number of changes to his starting line-up and his players responded with a 3-0 victory. The Irish offered little in attack and defended too deep. Kevin De Bruyne set up Romelu Lukaku for the opener on the counter-attack and then Axel Witsel arrived unmarked in the area to head home the second. Eden Hazard ran from his own half to set up Lukaku for the third.

Memorable...Robbie Brady (in white) watches his header beat Italy keeper Salvatore Sirigu

KEY MOMENT
Ireland felt they had legitimate claims for a penalty when Toby Alderweireld's raised foot clattered Shane Long's head in the Belgian penalty area. But the referee waved play on and Belgium broke away swiftly through De Bruyne, who supplied Romelu Lukaku for the opening goal.

MAN OF THE MATCH
De Bruyne was at the heart of the Belgian attack, playing a key role in the counter-attacks that led to Belgium's goals.



MATTER OF FACT
Romelu Lukaku became the first Belgian player to score twice in a tournament match since the man who is now the country's coach, Marc Wilmots, was on target twice against Mexico, in 1998. The score also equalled Belgium's biggest win at a major tournament, matching their 3-0 World Cup victory over El Salvador in 1970.

WHO SAID WHAT
"We analysed Ireland's first game and chose to play a different strategy today. We knew if they played in a diamond we could push our full-backs up, so we chose to play short passes on the ground and that's how we won."
Belgium coach Marc Wilmots

TALKING POINT
Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois was involved in a furious altercation with Wilmots after the Italy game and there were rumours that he would be dropped, amid claims that the coach had "lost the dressing room". However, Courtois retained his place and Belgium produced a far better team performance, albeit against a disappointing Irish side.

June 22, 2016

ITALY (0) 0

REP IRELAND (0) 1
(Brady 85)

Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille
Ref: Hategan (Rom). 44,268

ITALY: Sirigu; Barzagli, Bonucci, Ogbonna; Motta; Bernardeschi (Darmian 60), Sturaro, Florenzi, De Sciglio (El Shaarawy 81); Zaza, Immobile (Insigne 74)
Booked: Sirigu 39, Barzagli 78, Zaza 87, Insigne 90+1
REP IRELAND: Randolph; Coleman, Duffy, Keogh, Ward; McCarthy (Hoolahan 77); Hendrick, Brady;

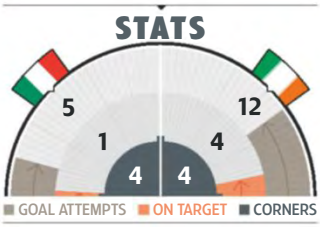
"It's like an out-of-body experience"
Robbie Brady tries to explain how it felt to score against Italy

Long (Quinn 90), Murphy (McGeady 70), McClean
Booked: Long 39, Ward 72

IRISH KEEP COMPOSURE
Robbie Brady's late header sent the Republic of Ireland into the knockout stage of a European Championship finals for the first time with a 1-0 win over a much-changed Italy side. Ireland had strong claims for a penalty in the first half when James McClean was shoved by Federico Bernardeschi but the hot, humid atmosphere under a closed roof in Lille sapped their energy. Towards the end, the *Azzurri* almost stole a late winner themselves but substitute Lorenzo Insigne's 76th-minute shot hit a post. Wes Hoolahan then missed a glorious opportunity for the Irish when one-on-one with keeper Salvatore Sirigu, but he kept his composure and moments later provided the cross for Brady's goal.

KEY MOMENT
Just as it looked as if Ireland might have run out of steam and Italy's attacking substitutes might steal a late winner, Brady rose to head Hoolahan's cross past Sirigu and send Martin O'Neill's side into the knockout stages.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Midfielder James McCarthy typified Ireland's energetic approach on the night against an Italian side that had already qualified for the next stage as group winners.



MATTER OF FACT
Defeat for Italy meant that no team went through from the group stage with a 100 per cent record.

WHO SAID WHAT
"All the plaudits to Wes Hoolahan as well. He put [the cross] right on my head. I would have done well to miss it."
Robbie Brady on his goal

TALKING POINT
Italy's centre-backs Leonardo Bonucci – who was captain in the absence of the rested Gianluigi Buffon – and Andrea Barzagli were the only players from the starting line-up against Sweden to begin this final group game. For Italy coach Antonio Conte, playing Bonucci was a gamble as the Juventus defender was one booking away from a suspension.

June 22, 2016

SWEDEN (0) 0
BELGIUM (0) 1
(Nainggolan 84)

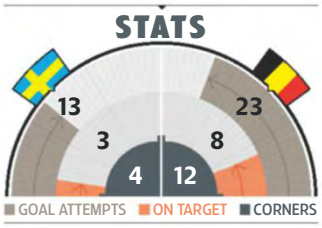
Allianz Riviera, Nice
Ref: Brych (Ger). Att: 34,011

SWEDEN: Isaksson; Lindelof, Johansson, Granqvist, Olsson; Ekdal, Kallstrom; Larsson (Durmaz 70), Forsberg (Zengin 82); Berg (Guidetti 63), Ibrahimovic
Booked: Ekdal 33, Johansson 36
BELGIUM: Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Nainggolan, Witsel; Ferreira Carrasco (Mertens 71), De Bruyne, Hazard (Origi 90+3); R Lukaku (Benteke 87)
Booked: Meunier 30, Witsel 45+1

SQUANDERED CHANCES
Sweden needed to win if they were to go through to the knockout stage, but Belgium always looked the more likely to score. Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and, in particular, Romelu Lukaku all squandered chances before Radja Nainggolan scored with a wonderful strike from the edge of the penalty area. On the balance of play it was the correct outcome as a workmanlike Sweden lacked the creativity to threaten Thibaut Courtois in the Belgian goal.

KEY MOMENT
Radja Nainggolan killed off Sweden's hopes and demonstrated a rare moment of class with his goal in a match that was high on thrills, but low on quality.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Sweden's Andreas Isaksson was by far the busier of the two keepers and pulled off a number of saves to keep Belgium at bay.



MATTER OF FACT
The final whistle marked the end of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's international career, which spanned 15 years, 116 matches and 62 goals. It was also the last appearance for Sweden of keeper Isaksson and midfielder Kim Kallstrom, as well as being Erik Hamren's last game in charge.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Zlatan Ibrahimovic has done a lot of great things in his career and would have wanted to go further here. Our objective was to qualify, but unfortunately he is now eliminated. He will remain a great player and still has a lot to offer at club level."
Belgium's Eden Hazard

TALKING POINT
Belgium went through but again made hard work of it against ordinary opposition. In De Bruyne, Hazard and Lukaku, the talent and goal potential was unquestionably there, but the suspicion remained that Marc Wilmots was incapable of getting the best out of his players.

All over...Sweden's inability to beat Belgium signalled the end of the international career of Zlatan Ibrahimovic (no10)

Trouble...Austria's Aleksandar Dragovic is booked against Hungary

June 14, 2016

AUSTRIA (0) 0
HUNGARY (0) 2
(Szalai 62, Stieber 87)

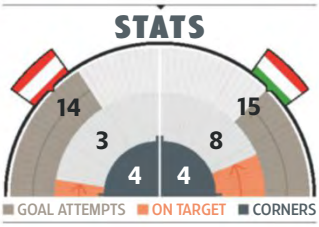
Stade de Bordeaux
Ref: Turpin (Fra). Att: 34,424

AUSTRIA: Almer; Klein, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Fuchs; Baumgartlinger, Alaba; Harnik (Schopf 77), Junuzovic (Sabitzer 59), Arnautovic; Janko (Okotie 65)
Booked: ■ Dragovic 33
Sent off: ■ Dragovic 66 (second yellow)
HUNGARY: Kiraly; Fiola, Guzmics, Lang, Kadar; Gera; Nemeth (Pinter 89), Nagy, Kleinheisler (Stieber 79), Dzsudzsak; Szalai (Priskin 69)
Booked: ■ Nemeth 80

HABSBURG DERBY
Unfancied Hungary pulled off one of the early surprises of the tournament to beat 10-man Austria. Austria midfielder David Alaba hit a post in the opening seconds but it was Adam Szalai who broke the deadlock after exchanging passes with Laszlo Kleinheisler. After Aleksandar Dragovic was sent off, the so-called "Habsburg derby" turned in Hungary's favour and sub Zoltan Stieber grabbed a second goal in the dying minutes.

KEY MOMENT
Midway through the second half, just when Austria thought that Martin Hinteregger had equalised with a thunderous volley, defender Dragovic was sent off after receiving a second yellow for a late challenge on Tamas Kadar.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Hungary midfielder Kleinheisler was a lively presence throughout the game. He set up Balazs Dzsudzsak for the best chance of the first half, which was pulled wide, and then played in Szalai for the opening goal.



MATTER OF FACT
Szalai's goal was his first for either club or country in 550 days.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Hungary didn't have many chances. I think we were the better team, but they were just calm and collected and took their chances. They took the lead and the red card made it even worse for us."
Austria's David Alaba

TALKING POINT
Not many people were predicting positive things about Hungary ahead of the tournament but they surprised with their attacking intent against Austria. They held their own in the first half and grew in confidence after the break. The opening goal was well worked and their second was brilliantly finished by sub Stieber in a blistering counter-attack following an Austria corner.

June 14, 2016

PORTUGAL (1) 1
(Nani 31)
ICELAND (0) 1
(B Bjarnason 50)

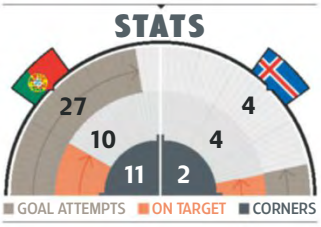
Stade Geoffrey-Guichard, Saint-Etienne
Ref: Cakır (Tur). Att: 38,742

PORTUGAL: Patricio; Vieirinha, Pepe, R Carvalho, Guerreiro; Danilo; Joao Mario (Quaresma 76) Moutinho (Sanches 71), Gomes (Eder 84); Nani, Ronaldo
ICELAND: Halldorsson; Saevarsson, R Sigurdsson, Arnason, Skulason; Gudmundsson (T Bjarnason 90), Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson, B Bjarnason; Bodvarsson, Sigthorsson (Finnbogason 81)
Booked: ■ B Bjarnason 55, ■ Finnbogason 90+4

DRAW ON DEBUT
Iceland marked their debut at a major international tournament with a remarkable draw. Nani put Portugal ahead with a slick near-post finish but Iceland, who were in combative mood throughout, refused to be overawed and were back on level terms when Birkir Saevarsson swung a deep cross into the penalty area and the unmarked Birkir Bjarnason swept home from close range.

KEY MOMENT
Cristiano Ronaldo had virtually a free-header in the closing minutes but could only direct it straight at keeper Hannes Halldorsson.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Birkir Bjarnason, like all his team-mates, worked tirelessly throughout the game and he will go down in Icelandic folklore as his country's first goalscorer at a major tournament.



MATTER OF FACT
Ronaldo lost his status as Portugal's youngest-ever player in a major finals when Renato Sanches, at the age of 18 years and 301 days, appeared in the second half.

WHO SAID WHAT
"We tried hard to win and Iceland didn't try anything. This, in my opinion, shows a small mentality."
Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo

TALKING POINT
Ronaldo flitted in and out of the contest but didn't leave his mark upon it. Whether the forward had fully recovered from the injury problems that hampered the latter part of his domestic season, remained to be seen.

Small mentality...Iceland's Gylfi Sigurdsson (right) puts Portugal under pressure

June 18, 2016

ICELAND (1) **1**
(G Sigurdsson pen 40)

HUNGARY (0) **1**
(Saevarsson og 88)

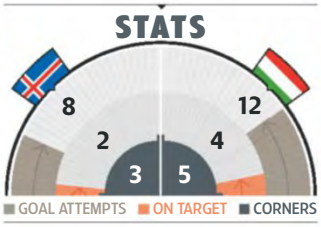
Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Ref: Karasev (Rus). Att 60,842

ICELAND: Halldorsson; Saevarsson, R Sigurdsson, Arnason, Skulason; Gudmundsson, G Sigurdsson, Gunnarsson (Hallfredsson 65), B Bjarnason; Sigthorsson (Gudjohnsen 84), Bodvarsson (Finnbogason 69)
Booked: ■ Gudmundsson 42, ■ Finnbogason 75, ■ Saevarsson 77
HUNGARY: Kiraly; Lang, Guzmics, Juhasz (Szalai 84), Kadar; Nagy; Stieber (Nikolic 66), Gera, Kleinheisler, Dzsudzsak; Priskin (Bode 66)
Booked: ■ Kadar 81, ■ Kleinheisler 83, ■ Nagy 90+1

OWN GOAL SPOILER
An own goal by defender Birkir Saevarsson denied Iceland a first-ever tournament victory. They had taken the lead after a soft first-half penalty decision was converted by Gylfi Sigurdsson and defended their advantage valiantly until a cross from substitute Nemanja Nikolic was turned into his own net by Saevarsson.

KEY MOMENT
Iceland's opening goal came from the penalty spot after Hungary keeper Gabor Kiraly spilled the ball. In the scramble to clear, Tamas Kadar was adjudged to have fouled Aron Gunnarsson but it looked a harsh decision.

MAN OF THE MATCH
It may have been Gylfi Sigurdsson who scored Iceland's spot-kick, but it was his namesake Ranar at the heart of the defence who kept them in the game with a series of important challenges.



MATTER OF FACT
Eidur Gudjohnsen became the fifth-oldest outfield player to play at the Euros, after Lothar Matthaus, Morten Olsen, Ivica Vastic and Ricardo Carvalho.

WHAT THEY SAID
"We performed fantastically and in the end we scored to get a point. It is still unbelievable to be talking about things like this. We are exceeding all our expectations and dreams; we Hungarians came to the Euros knowing that just taking part was a dream."
Hungary's Balazs Dzsudzsak

"It's like having your family at the match. I know about half of the fans here. Well, I recognise them anyway"
Iceland midfielder Kari Arnason on his team's supporters

TALKING POINT
Hungary's black-shirted fans celebrated their late equaliser as if it were the winner. But before kick-off riot police had been called into the stand after their supporters clashed with stadium stewards.

June 18, 2016

PORTUGAL (0) **0**

AUSTRIA (0) **0**

Parc des Princes, Paris
Ref: Rizzoli (Ita). Att: 44,291

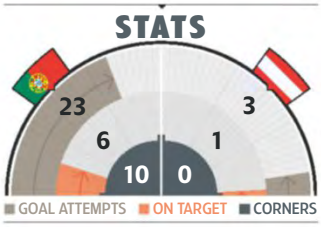
PORTUGAL: Patricio; Vierinha, Pepe, R Carvalho, R Guerreiro; W Carvalho; Quaresma (Joao Mario 70), Moutinho, Gomes (Eder 83); Nani (R Silva 88), Ronaldo
Booked: ■ Quaresma 31, ■ Pepe 40
AUSTRIA: Almer; Klein, Prodl, Hinteregger, Fuchs; Baumgartlinger, Ilsanker (Wimmer 87); Sabitzer (Hinterseer 85), Alaba (Schopf 65), Arnautovic; Harnik
Booked: ■ Harnik 47, ■ Fuchs 60, ■ Hinteregger 78, ■ Schopf 86

Off day...Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty

RONALDO MISFIRING
Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty and had a goal ruled out for offside as Portugal were held to a frustrating goalless draw. Portugal dominated possession and had plenty of chances but could not find a way through to goal. Ronaldo on the night became Portugal's most capped player of all time but endured a particularly frustrating time and was taunted by Austrian fans with chants of "Messi, Messi!".

KEY MOMENT
Portugal looked like they were finally about to make the breakthrough after a night of missed opportunities but Ronaldo hit a post with his 79th-minute penalty, which was awarded after he had been pushed over by Austrian defender Martin Hinteregger.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Austria goalkeeper Robert Almer played a key role in repelling wave after wave of Portuguese attacks.



MATTER OF FACT
Cristiano Ronaldo became Portugal's most capped player of all time, winning his 128th cap and overtaking the previous record set by Luis Figo.

WHAT THEY SAID
"It was a goal to be the most-capped international player and to be the national team's top scorer. But I'm a bit sad because this wasn't the way I wanted to break this record. We wanted to win. This was not how I envisaged it."
Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo

TALKING POINT
Ronaldo endured one of the most frustrating nights of his career. At the age of 31 he played as though the long club season in Spain with Real Madrid might just have caught up with him, and his miserable evening was capped by missing a penalty in the second half. And when he did eventually get the ball in the net, his header was ruled offside.

June 22, 2016

HUNGARY (1) **3**
(Gera 19, Dzsudzsak 47, 55)

PORTUGAL (1) **3**
(Nani 42, Ronaldo 50, 62)

Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon
Ref: Atkinson (Eng). Att: 55,514

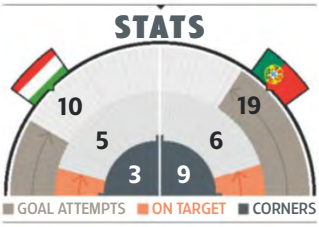
HUNGARY: Kiraly; Lang, Juhasz, Guzmics, Korhut; Gera (Bese 46); Lovrencsics (Stieber 83), Elek, Pinter, Dzsudzsak; Szalai (Nemeth 71)

Booked: Guzmics 13 Juhasz 28, Gera 34, Dzsudzsak 56
PORTUGAL: Patricio; Vieirinha, Pepe, R Carvalho, Eliseu; W Carvalho; Joao Mario, Moutinho (Sanches 46), Gomes (Quaresma 61); Nani (Danilo 81), Ronaldo

SIX-GOAL THRILLER
Following a perfectly executed half-volley from Zoltan Gera and two deflected left-footed strikes from Balazs Dzsudzsak, Portugal had to come from behind three times to claim a point and go through in third place. Nani levelled initially just before half-time but then it was left to Cristiano Ronaldo – who was making a record-breaking 17th Euro finals appearance – to save his side with a clever backheel and a header.

KEY MOMENT
Earlier in the day, when approached by a reporter, Ronaldo had thrown the journalist's microphone into a nearby lake. His two goals in the evening stopped Portugal's Euro hopes drowning without trace.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Despite his fluffed free-kicks, Ronaldo set up Portugal's first goal with a sweet pass to Nani and then scored twice himself to keep Portugal in the tournament. He also made history by becoming the first player to score in four different European Championships.



MATTER OF FACT
At 37 years and 62 days, Gera became the second-oldest player to score in a Euro finals, after Austria's Ivica Vastic in 2008.

WHO SAID WHAT
"This is what Cristiano is all about. He has to score because he's a winner. He plays up front and feeds on goals. This game increased his confidence levels."
Portugal coach Fernando Santos

TALKING POINT
Late in the game, coach Fernando Santos passed a note to Ronaldo and Portugal's attacks tailed off. At that stage, it seemed as though Santos was happy for his side's next game to be against England (as group runners-up), rather than Belgium (as group winners). But a late goal in the group's other game would scupper his plan...

Clever...a backheel by Cristiano Ronaldo (in green) beats Hungary keeper Gabor Kiraly

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Iceland	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Portugal	3	0	3	0	4	3	3
Austria	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

June 22, 2016

ICELAND (1) **2**
(Bodvarsson 18, Traustason 90+4)

AUSTRIA (0) **1**
(Schopf 60)

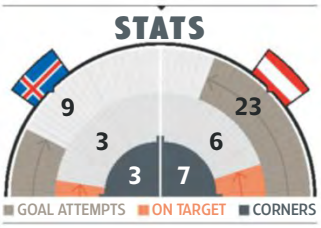
Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Ref: Marciniak (Pol). Att: 68,714

ICELAND: Halldorsson; Saevarsson, R Sigurdsson, Arnason, Skulason; Gudmundsson (Ingason 86), Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson, B Bjarnason; Sigthorsson (Traustason 80), Bodvarsson (T Bjarnason 71)
Booked: Skulason 36, Sigthorsson 51, Arnason 78, Halldorsson 82
AUSTRIA: Almer; Prodl (Schopf 46), Dragovic, Hinteregger; Klein, Baumgartlinger, Ilsanker (Janko 46), Fuchs; Sabitzer (Jantscher 78) Alaba, Arnautovic
Booked: Janko 70

MATCH OVERVIEW
Having led after Jon Bodvarsson reacted quickest to Aron Gunnarsson's long throw, Iceland saw Aleksandar Dragovic's penalty hit a post before Alessandro Schopf equalised. However, they kept going and won with the last kick of the game, from Arnor Ingvi Traustason, as Austria poured forward in search of the goal that would have seen them secure a place in the knockout stage.

KEY MOMENT
Dragovic's missed penalty was pivotal. Had that gone in, it is hard to imagine that Iceland would have hung on for the best part of an hour.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Kari Arnason put in an immense performance in the Icelandic defence, and repeatedly put his body on the line to deny Austria. His clearance of David Alaba's goalbound effort shortly after the interval was particularly important and kept his side's hopes alive.



MATTER OF FACT
Iceland's match winner Traustason better hope that Austrian football supporters are a forgiving sort of people – he joins Rapid Vienna next season.

Dramatic...Arnor Ingvi Traustason (right) scores with the last kick of the game

WHO SAID WHAT
"We're in the last 16. If someone had said that to me before the group stage I would have thought they were crazy. But it's a great story and we want to keep it going."
Iceland's Gylfi Sigurdsson

TALKING POINT
Austria coach Marcel Koller started with an unfamiliar three-man defence comprising Sebastian Prodl, Dragovic and Martin Hinteregger, but it was a formation that appeared to confuse his own players more than the opposition. It was only when Koller threw on extra forwards after the half-time break that his side were really able to establish control of the game – but by then the damage had been done.

June 25, 2016

SWITZERLAND (0) **1**
(Shaqiri 82)

POLAND (1) **1**
(Blaszczykowski 39)

(aet; 1-1 at 90 mins; Poland win 5-4 on pens)

Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, Saint-Etienne
Ref: Clattenburg (Eng). Att: 38,842

SWITZERLAND: Sommer; Lichtsteiner, Schar, Djourou, Rodriguez; Behrami (Fernandes 77), Xhaka; Shaqiri, Dzemaili (Embolo 58), Mehmedi (Derdiyok 70); Seferovic
Booked: Schar 55, Djourou 117
POLAND: Fabianski; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jedrzejczyk; Blaszczykowski, Krychowiak, Maczynski (Jodlowiec 101), Grosicki (Peszko 104); Milik, Lewandowski
Booked: Jedrzejczyk 58, Pazdan 111

POLAND ON PENALTIES
Having taken the lead in the first half, Poland were pegged back after the interval before scoring all five of their spot-kicks in the penalty shoot-out to reach their first Euro quarter-finals. Arkadiusz Milik fired over when faced with an open goal in the opening seconds following a mistake in the Swiss defence, but Jakub Blaszczykowski saved his blushes when he turned home Kamil Grosicki's cross before the break. Lucasz Fabianksi then made a fine save from Ricardo Rodriguez's free-kick and Haris Seferovic hit the bar before Xherdan Shaqiri equalised with a wonder goal. In the shoot-out, everyone scored except for Granit Xhaka, who blasted his penalty well wide.

KEY MOMENT
An acrobatic scissors kick from Shaqiri on the edge of the penalty area pulled Switzerland level and was a strong contender for goal of the tournament. Ultimately, though, it was not enough to keep the Swiss in the tournament.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Grzegorz Krychowiak scored the winning penalty and the midfielder was the glue that held the Polish side together through the previous 120 minutes.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT
Blaszczykowski has been directly involved in five of Poland's six goals in European Championship finals, with three goals and two assists.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I'm very sad for Granit Xhaka, but it's not just about him. Switzerland lost and I'm sad about that. The players gave everything and showed what they can do on the pitch. But unfortunately we made mistakes and paid for that."
Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic

TALKING POINT
Misfiring striker Seferovic was a surprising starter for the Swiss, who only threatened from set-pieces in the first half. And the centre-forward remained on the pitch after the break despite a poor first half as coach Vladimir Petkovic brought on Breel Embolo and Eren Derdiyok as extra strikers. As the Swiss sought a winner, Seferovic did hit the crossbar but it was too little, too late.

June 25, 2016

WALES (0) **1**
(McAuley og 75)

N IRELAND (0) **0**

Parc des Princes, Paris
Ref: Atkinson (Eng). Att: 44,342

WALES: Hennessey; Chester, A Williams, Davies; Gunter, Allen, Ledley (J Williams 63), Taylor; Ramsey, Bale; Vokes (Robson-Kanu 55)
Booked: Taylor 58, Ramsey 90+4
NORTHERN IRELAND: McGovern; Hughes, Cathcart, McAuley (Magennis 84), J Evans, Dallas; Davis, C Evans, Norwood (McGinn 79); Ward (Washington 69), Lafferty
Booked: Dallas 44, Davis 67

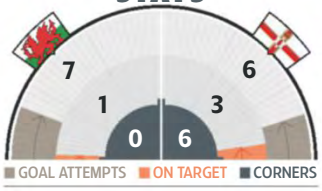
BALE CROSS BEATS IRISH
In a game of few chances, this scrappy affair was settled with an own goal from the unfortunate Gareth McAuley. With Northern Ireland managing to contain Gareth Bale for the most part, Wales' Sam Vokes headed wide from a second-half Aaron Ramsey cross, while Jamie Ward came closest for Northern Ireland with a shot from distance. In the end, however, it was Bale who made the difference, and it was his whipped cross from the left that ended up with McAuley turning past his own keeper.

Own goal... Gareth McAuley

KEY MOMENT
Although it cost his side the game, there could be little fault attributed to McAuley for his own goal. The Northern Ireland defender was forced to stick out a leg in an attempt to prevent Bale's excellent delivery from reaching striker Hal Robson-Kanu, who was lurking in the penalty area.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Bale was well marshalled for much of the game but he still managed to supply the dynamic cross that McAuley turned into his own net.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT
This was the first encounter between two British teams in the knockout stage of a major tournament.

WHO SAID WHAT
"No disrespect to Northern Ireland, but we knew it wasn't going to be the prettiest of games. They made it hard for us. We did not have a lot of space, but the team was the most important thing and we knew one goal might be enough."
Wales forward Gareth Bale

Acrobatic...Xherdan Shaqiri equalises

SHOOT-OUT	1-1	1-2	3-2	4-3	5-4
SWITZERLAND (WENT 1ST)	✓ Lichtsteiner	✗ Xhaka	✓ Shaqiri	✓ Schar	✓ Rodriguez
POLAND	✓ Lewandowski	✓ Milik	✓ Glik	✓ Blaszczykowski	✓ Krychowiak

TALKING POINT
In a game of few chances, there was more entertainment from the fans in the stands than the players on the pitch. Northern Ireland could claim to have been the better side after they restricted Wales to few chances, but the arrival of substitute Jonny Williams added more urgency to Wales' game and he released Bale to supply the all-important cross.

June 25, 2016

CROATIA (0) **0**
PORTUGAL (0) **1**
(Quaresma 117)
(aet; 0-0 at 90 mins)

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens
Ref: Velasco Carballo (Spa). Att: 33,523

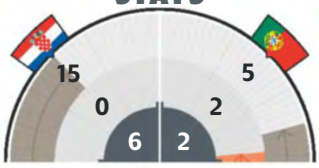
CROATIA: Subasic; Srna, Corluka (Kramaric 120), Vida, Strinic; Modric, Badelj; Brozovic, Rakitic (Pjaca 110), Perisic; Mandzukic (N Kalinic 88)
PORTUGAL: Patricio; Soares, Pepe, Fonte, R Guerreiro; W Carvalho; Joao Mario (Quaresma 87), A Silva (Danilo 108), Gomes (Sanches 50); Nani, Ronaldo
Booked: W Carvalho 74

CAGEY AFFAIR
A cagey game that produced only two shots on target in 120 minutes was won by Ricardo Quaresma's late goal on the counter-attack. Croatia had chances to win it themselves in extra-time, with Domagoj Vida heading over after keeper Rui Patricio missed a corner and Ivan Perisic heading against a post. Portugal made them pay when Renato Sanches fed Nani, whose cross-shot landed at the feet of Cristiano Ronaldo. Croatia keeper Danijel Subasic did well to parry Ronaldo's shot but Quaresma was following up and headed in the rebound. Vida almost grabbed a sensational equaliser but his hooked volley flew inches wide in injury-time.

KEY MOMENT
There may have been an element of good fortune about it, with Nani's shanked shot luckily falling into the path of Ronaldo, but Quaresma's winner, with three minutes of extra time remaining, was the game's deciding factor.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Teenage substitute Sanches made a big difference when he appeared early in the second half and he was responsible for starting the breakaway move which resulted in Portugal's late winning goal.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT
Nani became the fourth player to win 100 caps for Portugal, while Ante Cacic lost for the first time in his 11 games as coach of Croatia.

WHAT THEY SAID
"Sometimes you have to be pragmatic. It'd be nice to play pretty, but that's not always how you win tournaments."
Portugal coach Fernando Santos

TALKING POINT
Despite being hailed as serious contenders after winning their group, Croatia showed little attacking ambition against Portugal and left the tournament with a whimper not a bang. Nikola Kalinic was unlucky to be dropped from the starting line-up after scoring in Croatia's final group game against Spain, but Cacic opted to bring back Mario Mandzukic at centre-forward.

Influential...Portugal sub Renato Sanches

June 26, 2016

FRANCE (0) **2**
(Griezmann 58, 61)
REP IRELAND (1) **1**
(Brady pen 2)

Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon
Ref: Rizzoli (Ita). Att: 56,279

FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Matuidi, Kante (Coman 46, Sissoko 90+3), Pogba; Griezmann, Giroud (Gignac 73), Payet
Booked: Kante 27, Rami 44

Double...Antoine Griezmann scores his second goal against Republic of Ireland

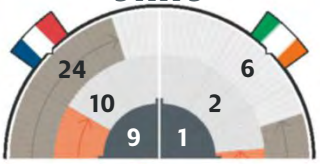
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Randolph; Coleman, Duffy, Keogh, Ward; McCarthy (Hoolahan 71); Hendrick, Brady, McClean (O'Shea 68); Long, Murphy (Walters 65)
Booked: Coleman 25, Hendrick 41, Long 72
Sent-off: Duffy 66

GRIEZMANN AT THE DOUBLE
Trailing to a penalty within two minutes, two goals in the space of three minutes from Antoine Griezmann saw France safely through. Robbie Brady, who had scored the late winner against Italy, put Ireland ahead from the spot after Paul Pogba's clumsy challenge on Shane Long and Ireland held their own until Griezmann's double. Shane Duffy was then sent off for denying him a third, and sub Andre-Pierre Gignac hit the bar as the hosts threatened but failed to run away with things in the second half.

KEY MOMENT
Just moments after getting his side back in the game with a headed equaliser, Griezmann then added the all-important second goal for France, finishing superbly from Olivier Giroud's knockdown on the edge of the area.

MAN OF THE MATCH
The scorer of both goals and lively throughout, Griezmann looked set to grab a third when pulled down by Duffy on the edge of the penalty area when clean through.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT
Hugo Lloris captained France for the 55th time, breaking the record held by current coach Didier Deschamps.

WHAT THEY SAID
"At half-time we were all shouting at each other, the coach, the players, everybody. We needed to improve. We weren't good in the first half and then we saw another French team in the second, one that wants to reach the Final."
France's Antoine Griezmann

TALKING POINT
First-half bookings mean France would be without two key defensive players in the quarter-finals: N'Golo Kante and Adil Rami.

June 26, 2016

GERMANY (2) **3**
(Boateng 8, Gomez 43, Draxler 63)
SLOVAKIA (0) **0**

Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille
Ref: Marciniak (Pol). Att: 44,312

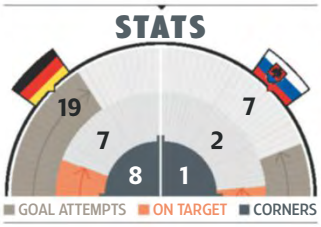
GERMANY: Neuer; Kimmich,

Boateng (Howedes 72), Hummels, Hector; Khedira (Schweinsteiger 76), Kroos; Ozil, Muller, Draxler (Podolski 72); Gomez
Booked: Kimmich 46, Hummels 67
SLOVAKIA: Kozacik; Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Gyomber (Salata 84); Skriniar; Kucka, Hrosovsky, Hamsik, Weiss (Gregus 46); Duris (Sestak 64)
Booked: Skrtel 13, Kucka 90+1

ANOTHER CLEAN SHEET
A rare missed penalty mattered little as Germany extended their run to 488 minutes without conceding a goal and produced their most impressive performance of the tournament so far. They took the lead through Jerome Boateng and should have increased their advantage six minutes later, but Matus Kozacik saved Mesut Ozil's spot-kick. Manuel Neuer needed to be at his best to keep out a Juraj Kucka header as Slovakia briefly threatened, but the world champions settled matters just before half-time when Julian Draxler tricked his way past Kucka to the byline and pulled the ball back for Mario Gomez to stab home. Draxler hooked the ball into the net after Mats Hummels had headed on a German corner for the world champions' third.

KEY MOMENT
Another hugely impressive performance from Germany's central defender Boateng was topped off with a volley from the edge of the area to open the scoring. It was his first international goal in 63 appearances.

MAN OF THE MATCH
In for the disappointing Mario Gotze, Draxler provided the assist for Germany's second goal, with a fine run into the area, and then scored their third with a smart volley.



MATTER OF FACT
Ozil's missed penalty was the first that Germany have failed to score during open play in Euro finals history. It was also his third successive failure in competitive action for club and country.

WHO SAID WHAT
"In his talk with me, the coach told me to look for one-on-ones, to make use of my pace. He's given me a lot of confidence and made it clear to me that I'm a good player. It's hard for me to say if this was my best or second-best game in a Germany shirt."
Julian Draxler on Germany coach, Joachim Low

On target...Jerome Boateng celebrates

TALKING POINT
Martin Skrtel looked surprised when penalised for the penalty – which was missed by Ozil – but he was only doing what he does every game. The real surprise was that it had taken so long for an official to take action against pushing in the area – this was the first such punishment of the tournament, in match 41.

June 26, 2016

HUNGARY (0) 0
BELGIUM (1) 4
(Alderweireld 10, Batshuayi 78, Hazard 80, Ferreira Carrasco 90+1)

Stadium Municipal, Toulouse
Ref: Mazic (Ser). Att: 38,921

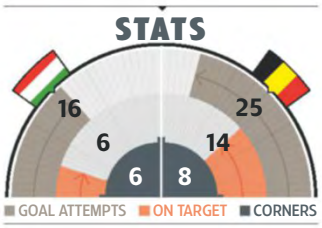
HUNGARY: Kiraly; Lang, Juhasz (Bode 79), Guzmics, Kadar; Nagy; Dzsudzsak, Gera (Elek 46), Lovrencsics; Pinter (Nikolic 75); Szalai
Booked: Kadar 34, Lang 47, Elek 61, Szalai 90+2
BELGIUM: Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Nainggolan, Witsel; Mertens (Ferreira Carrasco 70), De Bruyne, Hazard (Fellaini 81); R Lukaku (Batshuayi 76)
Booked: Vermaelen 67, Batshuayi 89, Fellaini 90+2

HAZARD WARNING
Eden Hazard inspired Belgium to a sweeping 4-0 victory as Marc Wilmots' side finally produced a performance worthy of their many talents. After unmarked Toby Alderweireld headed in Kevin De Bruyne's free-kick early on, Hungary were forced to go on the attack, which enabled Belgium to launch a series of counter-attacks. And although both sides had chances, sub Michy Batshuayi ended any hopes of a Hungarian comeback, and Hazard and Yannick Ferreira Carrasco finished them off. The only black spot for Belgium was a yellow card that ruled Thomas Vermaelen out of the quarter-finals.

Outstanding...Eden Hazard of Belgium

KEY MOMENT
A burst of acceleration and then a cross from Hazard set up substitute Michy Batshuayi to score Belgium's second goal with his first touch. It was the simplest of tap-ins but it was enough to kill off any hopes of a Hungarian revival.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Belgium captain Hazard gave one of the outstanding individual performances of the tournament so far. He was behind most of Belgium's attacks, supplying the assist for Batshuayi and scoring a superb individual effort before being substituted to a standing ovation.



MATTER OF FACT
Hazard provided more assists in his first four games at Euro 2016 than he did during the whole of last season for Chelsea.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It was a great game. We really deserved the victory. We could have scored more, but the keeper made some great stops. Not that we'll sulk over that. We are happy and through to the quarter-finals."

Belgium's Eden Hazard

Lurking...Giorgio Chiellini (no3) is set to pounce

TALKING POINT
Hungary lost their main creative output when Laszlo Kleinheisler limped out of the pre-match warm-up, and then Zoltan Gera dropped out at half-time. But they managed an impressive rearguard action for much of the second half, before Belgium scored a second goal to kill off any hopes of a comeback.

June 27, 2016

ITALY (1) **2**
(Chiellini 33, Pelle 90+1)

SPAIN (0) **0**

Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Ref: Caki Cakir (Tur). Att: 76,165

ITALY: Buffon; Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Florenzi (Darmian 84), Parolo, De Rossi (Motta 54), Giaccherini, De Sciglia; Eder (Insigne 82), Pelle
Booked: De Sciglio 24, Pelle 54, Motta 89
SPAIN: De Gea; Juanfran, Pique, Ramos, Alba; Fabregas, Busquets, Iniesta; Silva, Morata (Vasquez 70), Nolito (Aduriz 46, Pedro 81)
Booked: Nolito 41, Alba 89, Busquets 89, Silva 90+4

HOLDERS GO OUT
After eight years the champions of Europe were dethroned, despite the best efforts of their goalkeeper, David De Gea. Beaten 4-0 in the Final four years ago, Italy gave Spain a tactical masterclass – outplaying, out-thinking and out-fighting the winners of 2008 and 2012. De Gea made fine stops from Graziano Pelle and Emanuele Giaccherini in the opening quarter of an hour but then spilled Eder's free-kick, allowing Giorgio Chiellini to follow up and score. De Gea continued to repel the Spanish – who almost equalised through Gerard Pique late on – before Pelle finished off a counter-attack with a sharp volley.

KEY MOMENT
Although Italy were the more dominant side, they had veteran goalkeeper Gigi Buffon to thank for seeing them through at the death as he produced a fine save to deny Pique with the score at 1-0 in the final minutes.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Giaccherini covered more ground than any other player and played a crucial role in Italy's goal, nicking the ball away from De Gea and into the path of Chiellini.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT
This was the sixth European Championship meeting between Italy and Spain, making it the most common encounter in the history of the Euro finals.

WHO SAID WHAT
"They were more effective when it mattered, they were superior. We were waiting too much for what they were going to do. Sometimes these situations can come back to hurt you."

Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta

TALKING POINT
Italy coach Antonio Conte was a livewire presence on the touchline, kicking every ball – literally at one point, when Giaccherini miscontrolled a pass. Tactically, he "did a job" on Spain, who lacked pace and struggled to get their short-passing game going. Vicente Del Bosque's Spanish substitutions were also underwhelming, with midfielders Koke and Thiago left on the bench.

June 27, 2016

ENGLAND (1) **1**
(Rooney pen 4)

ICELAND (2) **2**
(R Sigurdsson 6, Sigthorsson 18)

Allianz Riviera, Nice
Ref: Skomina (Sln). Att: 33,901

ENGLAND: Hart; Walker, Cahill, Smalling, Rose; Alli, Dier (Wilshere 46), Rooney (Rashford 87); Sturridge, Kane, Sterling (Vardy 60)
Booked: Sturridge 47
ICELAND: Halldorsson; Saevarsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Skulason; Gudmundsson, G Sigurdsson, Gunnarsson, B Bjarnason; Sigthorsson (T Bjanarson 76), Bodvarsson (Traustason 89)
Booked: G Sigurdsson 38, Gunnarsson 65

ENGLAND EMBARRASSED
Despite getting an early goal, England suffered a humiliating exit at the hands of the tournament's surprise package. They had looked to be on course for a comfortable victory after taking the lead through Wayne Rooney's penalty after Raheem Sterling was brought down by keeper Hannes Halldorsson. But within a minute, Iceland were level. Following a long throw from captain Aron Gunnarsson, Gylfi Sigurdsson headed on for Ragnar Sigurdsson, who had evaded his marker, to score from close range. After Kolbeinn Sigthorsson got a second, England rarely threatened and, lacking energy, they wilted under the pressure of chasing the equaliser.

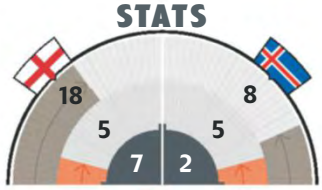
Struggle...Dele Alli is crowded out

Joy...Iceland celebrate their equaliser

KEY MOMENT
When Gylfi Sigurdsson played in Sigthorsson, the England defence stood off, afraid to make a tackle, and even though his shot lacked any real venom, Joe Hart could only palm it over the line.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Ragnar Sigurdsson scored Iceland's opening goal, almost got a second with an overhead kick and made a game-saving tackle on Jamie Vardy.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT
England have won only five knockout games at major finals since 1966.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I'm sorry it will have to end this way but these things happen. Now is the time for someone else to oversee the progress of a hungry and extremely talented group of players."

Roy Hodgson steps down as England manager

TALKING POINT
Hodgson replaced Eric Dier with the more creative Jack Wilshere at half-time, but England still struggled to break down an energetic Iceland. Wayne Rooney, who equalled David Beckham's record of 115 outfield caps for England, was replaced as his side hit a new low.

June 30, 2016

POLAND (1) **1**
(Lewandowski 2)

PORTUGAL (1) **1**
(Sanches 33)

(aet; 1-1 at 90 mins; Portugal win 5-3 on pens)

Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Ref: Brych (Ger). Att: 62,940

POLAND: Fabianski; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jedrzejczyk; Krychowiak, Maczynski (Jodlowiec 98); Blaszczykowski, Grosicki (Kapustka 82); Milik, Lewandowski
Booked: ■ Jedrzejczyk 42, ■ Glik 66, ■ Kapustka 89
PORTUGAL: Patricio; Soares, Pepe, Fonte, Eliseu; W Carvalho (Danilo 96); Joao Mario (Quaresma 80), Sanches, A Silva (Moutinho 73); Nani, Ronaldo
Booked: ■ A Silva 70, ■ W Carvalho 90+2

High climber...Pepe leaps above the Polish defence

SUB'S WINNING KICK

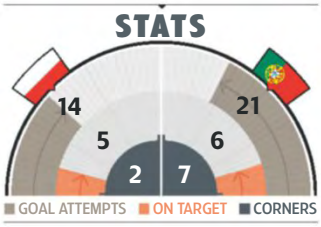
Despite not winning any of their five games in regulation time, Portugal went through to the semi-finals thanks to keeper Rui Patricio and sub Ricardo Quaresma in the shoot-out. Poland had stunned Fernando Santos' team with a goal in 100 seconds as Robert Lewandowski side-footed home Kamil Grosicki's cross to end an international goal drought stretching back 646 minutes. With Cristiano Ronaldo again misfiring, Portugal struggled initially and it took a fierce strike from teenager Renato Sanches to drag them back into the game. After exchanging passes with Nani, his shot from the edge of the area was deflected past Lukasz Fabianski by Grzegorz Krychowiak for the equaliser. Poland wilted as the game wore on but held out for penalties as Ronaldo spurned a couple of decent chances in the second half. After seven well-dispatched spot-kicks, Jakub Blaszczykowski's shot was pushed away by Patricio before Quaresma stepped up to send Portugal into the Euro semis for the fourth time in five tournaments.

KEY MOMENT

On the day he won his 50th cap for his country, Patricio saved Poland's fourth spot-kick in the shoot-out to hand Quaresma the chance to win the game.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Making his first start for Portugal, Sanches announced his arrival as a player of real potential on the international stage. At 18 years and 317 days he became the third-youngest scorer in a Euro finals – behind Johan Vonlanthen and Wayne Rooney – and rounded off a fine individual performance with a confidently struck penalty in the shoot-out.



MATTER OF FACT

Lewandowski's goal after 100 seconds was the second-fastest in a Euro finals, beaten only by Dmitri Kirichenko's 67-second effort for Russia against Greece in 2004.

WHO SAID WHAT

"The coach asked who wanted to shoot. Cristiano was first and I said I would be second. The coach had faith in me and I was confident enough to ask to shoot. I was just thinking about scoring. I was very cool, very collected, did what I always do and picked a spot and put it there."

Renato Sanches on his penalty

Confident...Portugal's Renato Sanches

TALKING POINT

Four years ago, in Portugal's Euro 2012 semi-final shoot-out against Spain, Ronaldo opted to take his side's final penalty – but was denied the opportunity because his team-mates missed earlier kicks to hand victory to Spain. This time, he took the first kick for Portugal to set the tone for the rest of the shoot-out.

Hero...Rui Patricio saves Jakub Blaszczykowski's penalty in the shoot-out

SHOOT-OUT	1-1	2-2	3-3	4-3	5-4
PORTUGAL (WENT 1ST)	✓ Ronaldo	✓ Sanches	✓ Moutinho	✓ Nani	✓ Quaresma
POLAND	✓ Lewandowski	✓ Milik	✓ Glik	✗ Blaszczykowski	

July 1, 2016

WALES (1) **3**
(A Williams 31, Robson-Kanu 55, Vokes 86)

BELGIUM (1) **1**
(Nainggolan 13)

Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille
Ref: Skomina (Sln). Att: 45,936

WALES: Hennessey; Chester, A Williams, Davies; Gunter, Allen, Ledley (King 78), Taylor; Bale, Ramsey (Collins 90); Robson-Kanu (Vokes 80)
Booked: Davies 5, Chester 16, Gunter 24, Ramsey 75
BELGIUM: Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Denayer, J Lukaku (Mertens 75); Witsel, Nainggolan; Ferreira Carrasco (Fellaini 46), De Bruyne, Hazard; R Lukaku (Batshuayi 83)
Booked: Fellaini 59, Alderweireld 85

Special...Hal Robson-Kanu fools Thomas Meunier (left) and Maroune Fellaini with his turn

WALES CREATE HISTORY

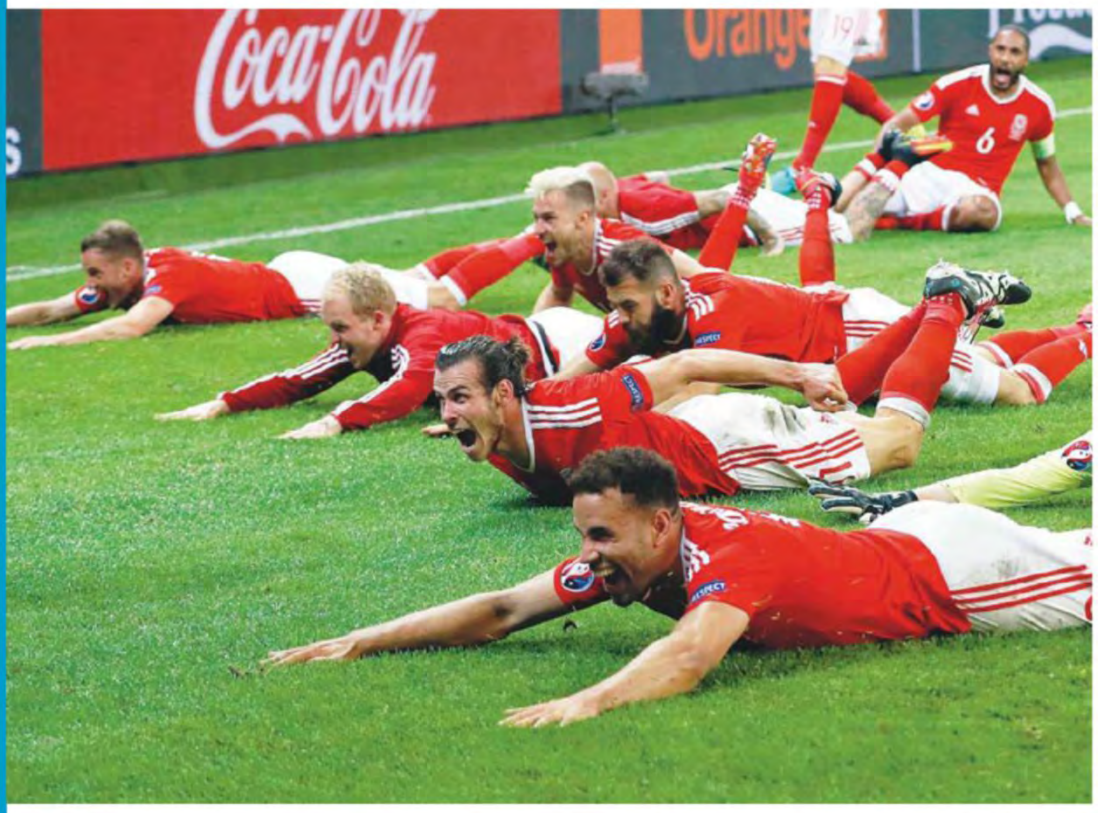
Goals from Ashley Williams, Hal Robson-Kanu and Sam Vokes gave Wales an historic victory over a Belgian side that had promised to run riot after a blistering start in which they took an early lead through Radja Nainggolan. Wales' spirit strengthened as the game progressed, and Belgium's resolve crumbled, but it had looked as though the Welsh were in for a long night as Marc Wilmots' side were quickly out of the blocks, playing fast, fluid football on the counter-attack. Welsh defenders threw themselves at early shots from Thomas Meunier and Eden Hazard after Wayne Hennessey had blocked a shot by Yannick Carrasco, but they could do little about Nainggolan's thunderbolt from 30 yards. However, poor marking at a corner let in Ashley Williams to head the equaliser and the balance of play shifted. Romelu Lukaku missed a good chance early in the second half, but Wales then went ahead with a superb piece of improvisation from Hal Robson-Kanu. With Wilmots switching to a back three, Wales struck again on the counter, with Sam Vokes heading in Chris Gunter's cross, to seal a first-ever semi-final appearance in a major tournament.

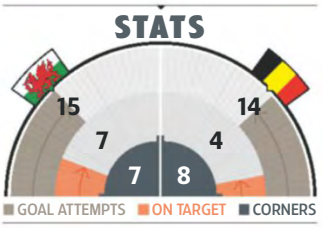
KEY MOMENT

Bale's long ball forward was controlled superbly by Ramsey, who pulled the ball across the Belgian penalty area. With his back to goal, Robson-Kanu shaped to pick out the overlapping Joe Allen before performing a "Cruyff turn" to send the three Belgian defenders behind him the wrong way. The 27-year-old then calmly placed the ball beyond the exposed Thibaut Courtois for a goal he will never forget.

MAN OF THE MATCH

The scorer of Wales' brilliant second goal, Robson-Kanu was released by Reading at the end of last season after scoring just three goals in the Championship last term.


History boys...Wales celebrate in front of their supporters after reaching the semi-finals of a major tournament for the first time



MATTER OF FACT

Belgium's starting XI had an average age of 24 years and 242 days, making them the youngest side in a Euro finals game for 48 years.

WHO SAID WHAT

"You dream about nights like this and to be lucky enough to be involved in a performance like that is incredible. The position we find ourselves in now is incredible because four years ago we were as far away from it as it is possible to be."

Wales manager Chris Coleman

Finished...Sam Vokes celebrates his goal

TALKING POINT

Ramsey's booking meant he would miss the semi-final, along with Ben Davies who also received his second caution of the tournament. "I think being suspended for two yellows in five games is a bit tough, but the rules are the rules," said Coleman. "Aaron and Ben both took one for the team. They are big losses for us but they can be very proud of their contributions. We wouldn't be where we are without them." Single yellow cards were not carried forward after the quarter-finals.

Exit at the quarter-final stage was another disappointment for the much-hailed "golden generation" of Belgian football. Yet they were defeated by a group of players who had themselves grown up together and had now achieved the greatest result in Welsh football history.

July 2, 2016

GERMANY (0) **1**
(Ozil 65)

ITALY (0) **1**
(Bonucci pen 78)

Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux
Ref: Kassai (Hun). Att: 38,764

GERMANY: Buffon; Howedes, Boateng, Hummels; Kimmich, Khedira (Schweinsteiger 16), Kroos, Hector; Muller, Ozil; Gomez (Draxler 72)
Booked: Hummels 90, Schweinsteiger 112
ITALY: Buffon; Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini (Zaza 120+1); Florenzi (Darmian 86), Sturaro, Parolo, Giaccherini, De Sciglio; Eder (Insigne 108), Pelle
Booked: Sturaro 56, De Sciglio 57, Parolo 59, Pelle 91, Giaccherini 103

Error...the ball strikes Jerome Boateng's hand in the German penalty area

GERMANY WIN AT LAST

Germany's first tournament victory over Italy in nine attempts was achieved despite three of their players missing penalties during an epic shoot-out. German coach Joachim Low ditched his favoured 4-2-3-1 in a switch to a back three, which contained Italy's wing-backs and succeeded only in killing the game for most of the first half. Midfield pressing produced sloppy passing by both sides and Germany's cause was not helped by losing Sami Khedira to an early injury. His replacement, Bastian Schweinsteiger, then had a headed goal disallowed for a clear push on Mattia De Sciglio. Germany enjoyed greater possession at the start of the second half and they made the breakthrough when wing-back Jonas Hector's pull back was stabbed past Gianluigi Buffon by the onrushing Mesut Ozil, who had been a peripheral figure up until then. Mario Gomez almost grabbed a second soon afterwards but his backheel was pushed over the bar by Buffon. Italy had never been behind to Germany at a major tournament before but they were let back in when Jerome Boateng handled in the area and Leonardo Bonucci scored with his first penalty at international level. After extra-time failed to separate the sides, a series of missed kicks saw the penalty sequence go to sudden death. Three players from each side converted their kicks before sub Matteo Darmian's weak shot was saved by Manuel Neuer and Hector dispatched the winning penalty, the 18th of the shoot-out.

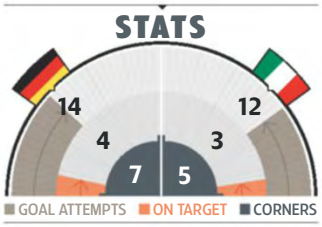
KEY MOMENT

Taking Italy's fourth penalty, and with the chance to put his side 3-1 ahead, Graziano Pelle appeared to goad German goalkeeper Neuer by gesturing that he would "do a Panenka" and chip his spot-kick down the middle. Rather than psyche out Neuer, the 30-year-old seemed to spook himself and he blasted his kick wide to give Germany a lifeline.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Neuer saved Bonucci's effort in the shoot-out and then held his nerve to keep out Darmian's kick during sudden-death penalties to set up Germany's victory.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

Twelve of the 22 players who were on the pitch at kick-off were facing suspension if they were booked. Of the 12, only Mats Hummels missed the semi-finals after collecting a second card.

Cocky...Graziano Pelle's plan backfired

WHO SAID WHAT

"I have never experienced a shoot-out like it. I think most of the Italians just aimed down the middle."
Germany keeper Manuel Neuer

TALKING POINT

The shoot-out produced some of the worst penalty misses seen at a European Championship. Simone Zaza was the first to fail for Italy, despite coming off the substitutes' bench with seconds of extra-time remaining specifically to take a spot-kick. Pelle's over-confident effort was particularly poor, while Thomas Muller, Ozil and Bastian Schweinsteiger also missed from 12 yards out – the first Germans to do so in a shoot-out since Uli Stielike in 1982.

Going through...Germany celebrate

SHOOT-OUT	1-1	1-1	2-1	2-2	2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	5-6
ITALY (WENT 1ST)	✓ Insigne	✗ Zaza (over bar)	✓ Barzagli	✗ Pelle (wide)	✗ Bonucci (saved)	✓ Giaccherini	✓ Parolo	✓ De Sciglia	✗ Darmian (saved)
GERMANY	✓ Kroos	✗ Muller (saved)	✗ Ozil (hit post)	✓ Draxler	✗ Schweinsteiger (over bar)	✓ Hummels	✓ Kimmich	✓ Boateng	✓ Hector

Job done...Olivier Giroud heads home his second before being substituted

July 3, 2016

FRANCE (4) **5**
(Giroud 12, 59, Pogba 20, Payet 43, Griezmann 45)

ICELAND (0) **2**
(Sigthorsson 56, B Bjarnason 84)

Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Ref: Kuipers (Hol). Att: 76,833

FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Koscielny (Mangala 72), Umtiti, Evra; Matuidi, Pogba; Sissoko, Payet (Coman 80); Griezmann, Giroud (Gignac 60)
Booked: ■ Umtiti 75
ICELAND: Halldorsson; Saevarsson, Arnason (Ingason 46), R Sigurdsson, Skulason; Gudmundsson, Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson, B Bjarnason; Sigthorsson (Gudjohnsen 83), Bodvarsson (Finnbogason 46)
Booked: ■ B Bjarnason 58

HOSTS' POLISHED DISPLAY

Goals from Olivier Giroud (two), Paul Pogba, Dimitri Payet and Antoine Griezmann ended Iceland's fairy-tale adventure as France displayed the breadth of their attacking options with a polished, confident display. Iceland, as expected, set up in a compact, well-organised 4-4-2, but the dangers of playing a high defensive line were exposed early on when Blaise Matuidi played a simple ball over the top which Giroud reached with a well-timed run before flashing his shot through the legs of keeper Hannes Halldorsson. Pogba's towering header made it two, although *Les Bleus'* debutant Samuel Umtiti had to be alert when Kari Arnason almost got on the end of Gylfi Sigurdsson's knock-on from a long throw. Payet added a third with a left-foot shot from the edge of the area and a fourth goal arrived on the stroke of half-time, Griezmann running onto Giroud's back-heeled lay-off and dinking a lob over the advancing keeper. Iceland pulled a goal back as Kolbeinn Sigthorsson turned in Gylfi Sigurdsson's cross at the near post, but Giroud restored France's advantage by heading in Payet's free-kick. Willed on by their noisy fans, Birkir Bjarnason scored with a late header for Iceland.

Powerful...Paul Pogba soars above the Iceland defence to head home France's second goal

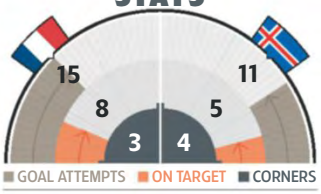
KEY MOMENT

Iceland came from behind after going a goal behind against England in the last round, but any hopes of a similar comeback this time were ended when Pogba rose above Kari Arnason to head home Griezmann's corner and put France 2-0 ahead.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Griezmann equalled Michel Platini's French record of four goals at a Euro tournament, set in 1984, and gave an assured, confident performance in the number 10 role.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

For the first time in European Championship history, all eight quarter-finalists scored in their respective games. France, meanwhile, became the first team to score four goals in the first half of a Euro finals match.

WHO SAID WHAT

"We didn't handle it well mentally, but in the second half we showed it wasn't a physical problem. These are the games you have to learn from and we need to learn from this. This was a good reminder that you have to have the right attitude every second."
Lars Lagerback, Iceland's joint-coach

TALKING POINT

Iceland's Euro adventure ended at the hands of the hosts, but they did themselves and their country proud right to the very end. Even at 4-0 down they refused to give up and were rewarded with two second-half goals.

July 6, 2016

PORTUGAL (0) **2**
(Ronaldo 50, Nani 53)

WALES (0) **0**

Parc Olympique Lyonnais, Lyon
Ref: Eriksson (Swe). Att: 55,679

PORTUGAL: Patricio; Soares, Fonte, Alves, Guerreiro; Danilo; Sanches (Gomes 74), A Silva (Moutinho 79), Joao Mario; Nani (Quaresma 86), Ronaldo
Booked: ■ Alves 71, ■ Ronaldo 72
WALES: Hennessey; Collins (J Williams 66), A Williams, Chester; Gunter, Allen, Ledley (Vokes 58), Taylor; King, Bale; Robson-Kanu (Church 63)
Booked: ■ Allen 8, ■ Chester 62, ■ Bale 88

STILTED PERFORMANCE

Second-half goals from Cristiano Ronaldo and Nani were enough to take Portugal to their second Euro Final and a first since they lost to Greece on home soil in 2004. This was their first victory over 90 minutes in this tournament and, for the Portuguese and their captain Ronaldo, the result mattered far more than the stilted nature of their performance. In a cagey first-half Wales had contained Portugal with ease, leaving Ronaldo isolated and frustrated as long balls aimed at him were mopped up by the Welsh centre-backs. James Collins, in for the suspended Ben Davies, slotted in comfortably, although he was lucky to get away with a headlock on Ronaldo in the area. Gareth Bale, playing a deeper than usual role and without the support of the suspended Aaron Ramsey, worked hard and a surging run from his own half ended with a shot held by Rui Patricio. Hal Robson-Kanu showed a decent turn of pace to beat Raphael Guerreiro and send in a threatening cross, but Andy King, in for Ramsey, headed over. There seemed little prospect of more positive developments after the break, but within a few minutes of the restart Portugal were two up. First Ronaldo headed home a corner, then Nani steered his speculative shot past Wayne Hennessey. His confidence now high, Ronaldo went close with a dipping free-kick and when Hennessey spilt Nani's shot, Joao Mario blasted the rebound wide. Ronaldo also rounded Hennessey but was forced wide and hit the side netting. Wales manager Chris Coleman made three attacking substitutions but could find no way back into a game that ended with Welsh fans serenading their team with one last verse of their national anthem, *Land of My Fathers*.

Aerial presence...Bruno Alves (right) dominates in the air at the back for Portugal

Superstars...Real Madrid team-mates Cristiano Ronaldo (left) of Portugal and Wales' Gareth Bale embrace at the end of the game

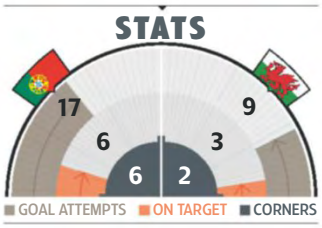
KEY MOMENT

In a game that had offered little excitement or goal threat, Ronaldo broke the deadlock with a trademark header, leaping above James Chester to power home a Portuguese corner.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Ronaldo became the first player to appear in three Euro semi-finals and equalled Michel Platini's record with his ninth tournament goal.

STATS



MATTER OF FACT

The selection of Bruno Alves meant all 20 of Portugal's outfield players appeared at Euro 2016.

WHO SAID WHAT

"I've always said my dream was to win a trophy with Portugal. We're closer to doing it and I believe that we'll win. With a lot of work, humility and the spirit of self-sacrifice, which I have always shown in my career, these sorts of things are doable"
Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo

TALKING POINT

In a break with tradition, both teams wore their change kit. The official explanation from UEFA was that Portugal's deep-red strip was too close to Wales' change colours of "charcoal and lime".

Handball...Bastian Schweinsteiger gives away the penalty

July 7, 2016

GERMANY (0) 0

FRANCE (1) 2

(Griezmann pen 45, 72)

Stade Velodrome, Marseille
Ref: Rizzola (Ita). Att: 64,078

GERMANY: Neuer; Kimmich, Boateng (Mustafi 61), Howedes, Hector; Schweinsteiger (Sane 79); Can (Gotze 67), Kroos; Ozil, Draxler; Muller
Booked: Can 36, Ozil 45+1, Schweinsteiger 45+1, Draxler 50
FRANCE: Lloris; Sagna, Koscielny, Umtiti, Evra; Pogba, Matuidi; Sisssoko, Payet (Kante 71); Griezmann (Cabaye 90+2), Giroud (Gignac 78)
Booked: Evra 43, Griezmann 75

GRIEZMANN AT THE DOUBLE

Some uncharacteristically poor defending by Germany saw Antoine Griezmann score twice as France gained some revenge for their quarter-final loss at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil to the future world champions. Although the hosts had enjoyed the better of the early exchanges this time, Germany weathered the initial storm and soon assumed dominance. Yet for all their first-half possession, Germany could not convert any of their chances as Hugo Lloris punched away Emre Can's miscued volley and then turned over Bastian Schweinsteiger's curling shot. A mistake by Blaise Matuidi let in Thomas Muller, but he was unable to find the power necessary to beat Lloris. Then, on the stroke of half-time, Schweinsteiger led with his arm when trying to clear a French corner and conceded a penalty, from which Griezmann gave France the lead. German hopes took a further dent when Jerome Boateng, their best defender of this tournament, hobbled off injured after the break, after which his team-mates failed to reassert their authority. The arrival of N'Golo Kante, on for Dimitri Payet, allowed his fellow French midfielders to push forward and Paul Pogba took full advantage. A slip by Joshua Kimmich allowed Pogba to send over a cross that keeper Manuel Neuer, under pressure from Olivier Giroud, could only flap into the path of Griezmann, who stabbed the ball home for his and France's second. Germany tried to mount a response through Kimmich, who shot against a post, and Julian Draxler, whose free-kick sailed just wide. Lloris then produced a brilliant point-blank save to deny Kimmich in injury-time and send *Les Bleus* into the Final.

Two up...Antoine Griezmann (centre) stabs the ball past Manuel Neuer for France's second

KEY MOMENT

The penalty awarded to France in first-half injury time took many in the stadium by surprise and did seem harsh, but Schweinsteiger was judged to have had an arm in an unnaturally high position as he challenged Patrice Evra. His handball allowed Griezmann to score from the penalty spot.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Griezmann scored twice in a game for the second time in this tournament and went off to a rapturous reception just before the final whistle.

STATS

MATTER OF FACT

Schweinsteiger became the most-capped European player at major international tournaments, making his 38th appearance in the finals of either a European Championship or the World Cup.

WHO SAID WHAT

"We've already written history. It was a long time since we'd beaten Germany but that didn't mean anything today. We're into the final"
France coach Didier Deschamps

TALKING POINT

Schweinsteiger was penalised for a deliberate handball, with his hand raised too high, in much the same way that team-mate Boateng had been in the quarter-final against Italy.

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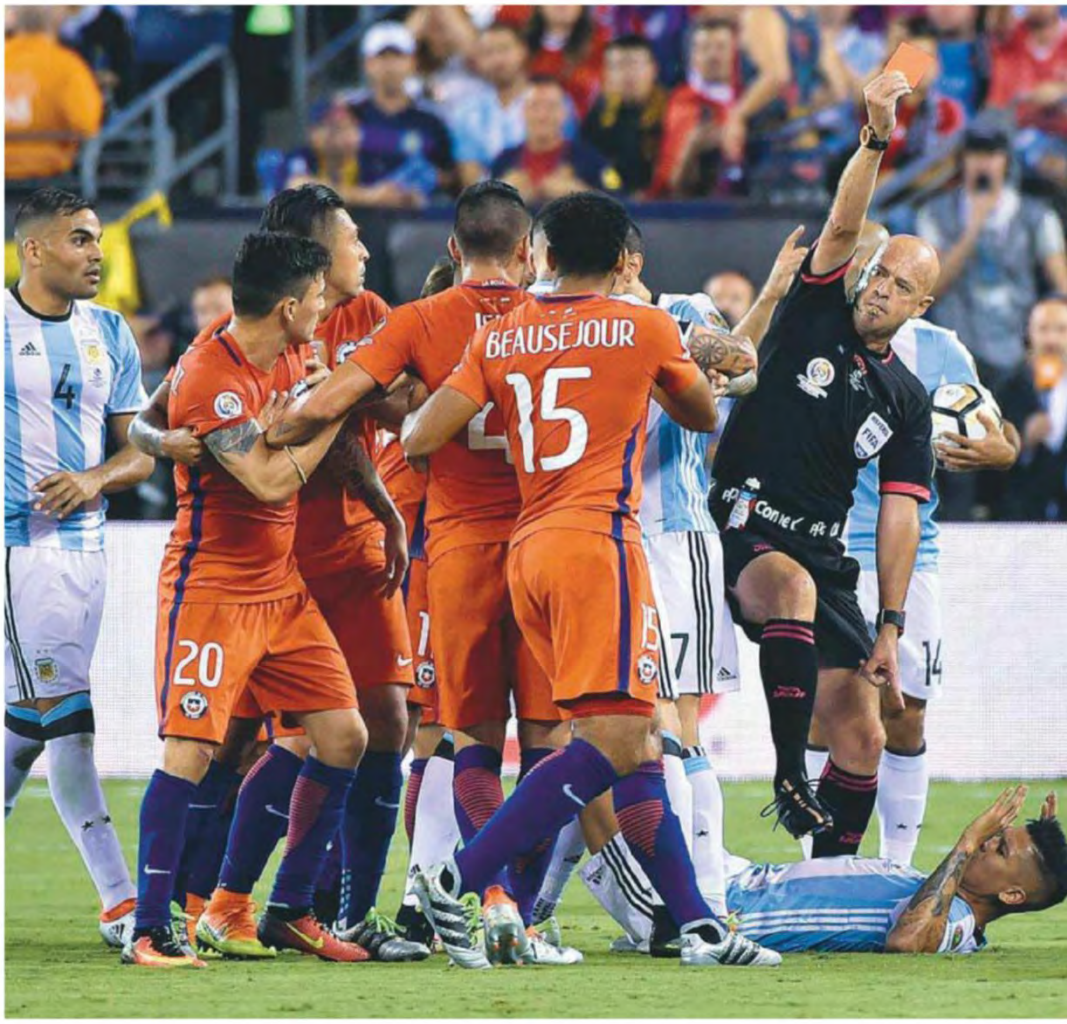


It is the "waiting for a bus" model of filling the trophy cabinet. In 2015, 99 years after the birth of the Copa America, Chile won it for the first time...and then along came a second almost straight afterwards as they won the Copa was staged in the USA to celebrate the tournament's centenary.

And Chile took this year's title in exactly the same way that they had claimed the first: with a penalty shoot-out victory after a goalless draw with Argentina.

That two such attack-minded sides should, for the second consecutive year, produce two hours of football in the Final without a single goal was something of a disappointment. This time, however, Brazilian referee Heber Lopes must bear some of the blame.

Just as Howard Webb of England misjudged the World Cup Final between Spain and Holland because he went too far in trying to keep everyone on the field, so Lopes was guilty of making the opposite mistake, wrecking the flow of the game with his attention-seeking histrionics and handing out cards like a rookie at a business conference.

There was always likely to be friction in the game because it was so condensed. Chile, who had lost 2-1 to Argentina in the group stage, pressed furiously in the Final and, with space to play in being a rare commodity, there was plenty of physical contact.

> Having established such a harsh criteria, Lopes found himself obliged to flourish a card at every opportunity

Throughout the tournament, Lionel Messi had displayed his strategic brain, varying his position from game to game to find the area in which to do most damage. In the Final he started on the right flank, attacking the zone behind left-back Jean Beausejour. He reckoned on not being in constant contact with the ball, but felt that his solo bursts would test Chile's defence. And so it proved.

When Messi got away early on, his progress was halted by a crude foul from Marcelo Diaz, which deservedly drew a yellow card. Before the half-hour mark, Messi was away again and this time Diaz was guilty of obstruction. While worthy of a free-kick, it was surely not a bookable offence as it was hard to see how the defender could have got out of the way. But Lopes pulled out another yellow, and with Diaz dismissed the game as a spectacle paid a heavy price.

Having established such a harsh criteria, Lopes then found himself obliged to flourish a card at every opportunity. Messi, absurdly, was booked for diving and it became 10 against 10 when left-back Marcos Rojo was given a straight red for a tackle that was perhaps a little ill-judged but nothing more than over enthusiastic.

Cooler heads prevailed after the interval, but too much time and momentum had been taken away from a game which had promised so much – and appeared on the way to delivering when Argentina's Ever Banega shot narrowly wide after just 16 seconds.

From the start, though, Chile circulated the ball better. Indeed, 11 minutes after half-time Argentina were forced to substitute Angel Di Maria – back after injury but proving that fitness and match fitness are not the same thing – with Matias Kranevitter in a bid to win back control of midfield.

Yet all through the 120 minutes, Chile's controlled possession led to very few chances – mainly due to a magnificent performance from Javier Mascherano, at first in the holding role and then dropping to centre-back after Rojo's expulsion.

Safety in numbers...Chile deal with Lionel Messi

Seeing red...Marcos Rojo (on ground, in blue) is dismissed

Having previously appeared in four Finals for his country, and been on the losing side every time, Mascherano played with the intensity of a man determined to be lucky the fifth time round.

Argentina had the better moments, although Messi's starting position determined that they would be more sporadic as he was a long way from Banega, his usual supply line. And on the right of midfield, Lucas Biglia was a poor replacement for the injured Augusto Fernandez.

Given the pattern of the game it was perhaps inevitable that the clearest chance would come from an individual error. When it was still 11 against 11, the otherwise excellent Gary Medel let the ball slip under his feet and allowed Gonzalo Higuain to bear down on goal. The villain of missed chances in Argentina's Finals of 2014 and 2015, Higuain had looked fitter and sharper in this tournament, with four goals in the two previous games, but he rolled his shot agonisingly wide of the far post – and an air of fatalism appeared to descend on the Argentinians.

Banega, Messi and Sergio Aguero, who came on for Higuain, all had chances, but all were guilty of lacking calmness in front of goal. With an excess of nerves, every shot was snatched hurriedly wide – and so it went to penalties.

When Sergio Romero blocked the first from Arturo Vidal it looked as if Argentina would win the day, but to the disbelief of the 82,000 crowd Messi then fired high into the New Jersey sky. After five successful penalties, Biglia had Argentina's fourth kick saved. Last year Alexis Sanchez had clinched the Copa for Chile, but he had gone off in extra-time this year. However, his replacement, Francisco Silva, took the next spot-kick and fired low to Romero's right to seal it for Chile.

The fall out afterwards was obviously dominated by Messi's declaration that he was quitting international football – which, somewhat unfortunately, overshadowed the Chilean victory.

It could be that Messi was planning to jump win or lose – he made his dissatisfaction with the chaotic Argentinian FA clear before the Final. If so, then the manner of the defeat may make a rethink more possible, since he still has unfinished business with the national team. Only time will tell.

Whatever happens, Messi's post-match dejection highlights the pressures and importance of international football, and his decision to stop playing for Argentina is a backhanded recognition of the importance of this tournament – along with the sacking of Brazil boss Dunga and the resignation of Paraguay's Ramon Diaz.

Finding a date will not be easy, but a one-off match between Chile and the Euro 2016 champions on South American soil

Over...Lionel Messi's missed penalty could be his last-ever involvement on the international stage

is now in the pipeline.

As for the USA's staging of the tournament, there were some blunders – Uruguay lining up for the Chilean national anthem, Chile's anthem turning into Pitbull, Bolivia's flag upside down – and other manifestations of the rigidity of the North American mind. In such a giant country the logistics were questionable – Mexico hardly having to travel while Uruguay pinged back and forth from coast to coast, for example, a decision where commercial considerations rode roughshod over sporting justice. For veterans of the Copa, it was bizarre to see how little impact the competition made on the day-to-day life of the USA. Where usually it is unavoidable, this time many locals seemed unaware that it was taking place. Football is a niche in the USA – but it is a growing one.

Ticket prices were controversially high, and it was disappointing to see 20,000 unsold seats for the USA-Ecuador quarter-final in the supposed football hotbed of Seattle. But an average crowd figure approaching 50,000 was a major positive. One of the drivers of ticket sales was the desire to see Messi in competitive action, but the main factor was that the immigrant communities in the US got right behind the competition – something to dwell on as the United States becomes an increasingly Hispanic nation. The organisers were more than happy with both the crowd figures and the TV ratings, and it has to be borne in mind that the organisation time had been just seven months – a consequence of the institutional problems at both CONMEBOL and CONCACAF in the wake of the FIFA-gate scandal. So, in this light the Copa Centenario has to be seen as a success.

There is also the feeling that this is the start of something. A formal merger between the two confederations would

> One of the drivers of ticket sales was the desire to see Messi in competitive action

Great support...average Copa crowds approached 50,000

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

GOALKEEPER

Sergio ROMERO
(Argentina)
Argentina's most-capped keeper has had a strange career, spending most of his time on the bench at a variety of clubs. But, with the possible exception of the goal conceded in the opening game, he was flawless and stood up to make some big saves.
Honourable mentions: Dani HERNANDEZ (Venezuela), Pedro GALLESE (Peru) and David OSPINA (Colombia)

DEFENDERS

Santiago ARIAS
(Colombia)
This was not a great tournament for full-backs. Arias may have had his ups and downs – he will certainly not care to dwell on Chile's second goal in the semi-final – but, in general, his defending was sound and he overlapped to good effect, combining well with Juan Cuadrado.

Jean BEAUSEJOUR
(Chile)
Started the first game of the tournament at left-wing, but was soon dropping deeper because of the injury to Eugenio Mena, and spent the rest of the competition at full-back, where his capacity to cover the entire flank was important.

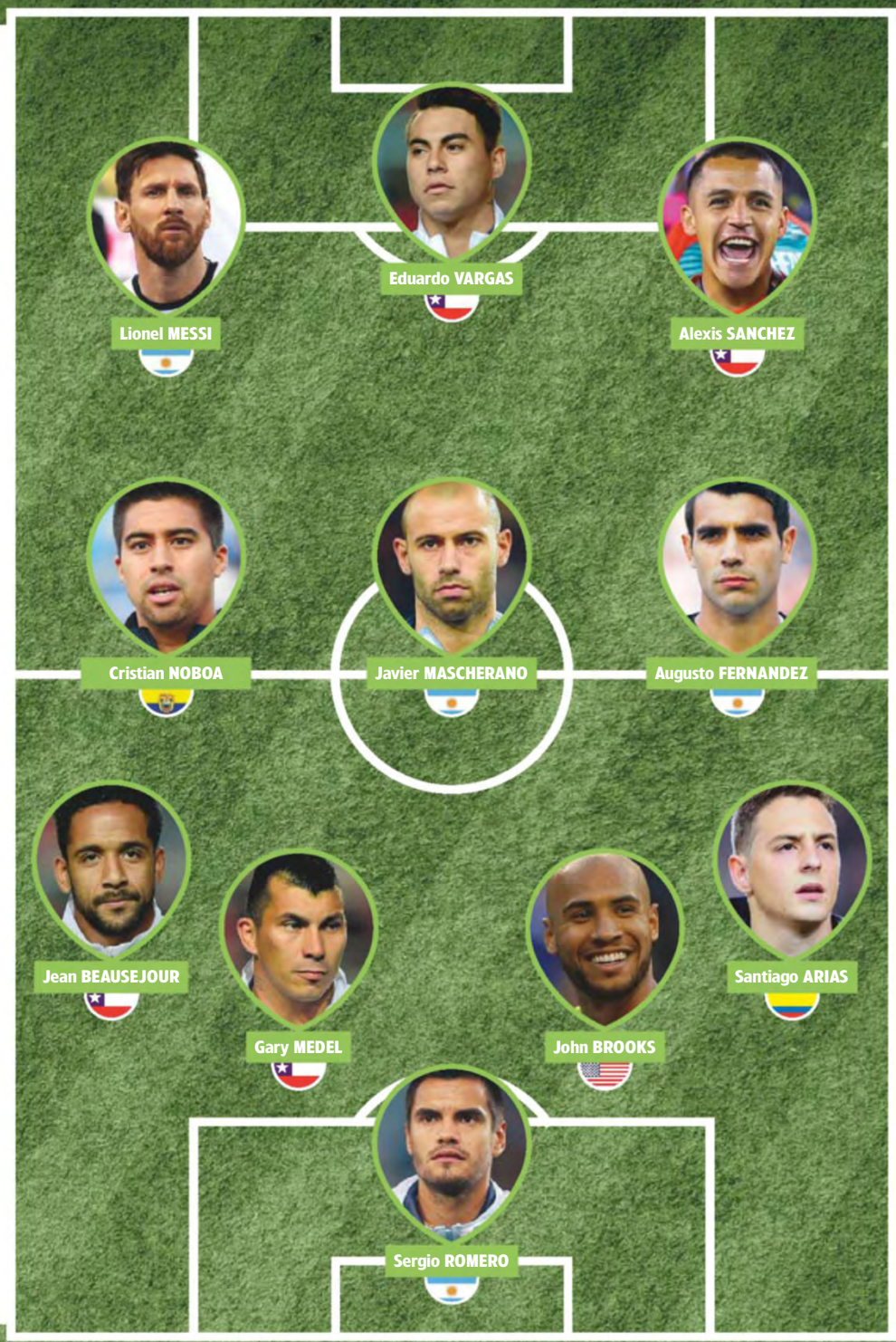
Gary MEDEL
(Chile)
Made a near calamitous error in the Final, but got away with it and deservedly so, because otherwise he was right at the top of his game, tackling, covering, organising and passing out of defence.

John BROOKS
(USA)
A man-monster at the heart of the hosts' defence. Quick, strong, composed and not trying to play beyond his limitations, he was a rock around which the USA defence was constructed.
Honourable mentions: Cristian RAMOS (Peru) and Cristian ZAPATA (Colombia)

MIDFIELD

Javier MASCHERANO
(Argentina)
Losing a fifth Final was very harsh on a strong contender for player of the tournament. He has always been known for his tough tackling and has gained respect

Champions...Chile lift the Copa America



for the crispness of his passing, but really stands out for his reading of the game, seeming to know what is going to happen before anyone else.

Augusto FERNANDEZ
(Argentina)
Pulled up in the semi-final and was badly missed in the decider. His quiet versatility was impressive, varying his function as Lionel Messi changed position, bringing box-to-box dynamism and real intensity in the team's pressing.

Cristian NOBOA
(Ecuador)
An accomplished supply line for his team's front players, in addition to shielding the centre-backs. Showed a terrific range of passing, picking his options well, and had the physical capacity to get into the opposition's box.
Honourable mentions: Arturo VIDAL (Chile), Charles ARANGUIZ (Chile), Ever BANEGA (Argentina), Oscar VILCHEZ (Peru) and Cristian CUEVA (Peru)

STRIKERS

Lionel MESSI
(Argentina)
The missed penalty inevitably casts a big shadow, but he also gave the US crowds plenty of examples of his undoubted genius. There are times when he makes football look so easy that he seems to be playing a different sport from everyone else. The international game will be poorer for his absence if he sticks to his intention and only plays club football.

Eduardo VARGAS
(Chile)
Was dropped to the bench for the second game, but as soon as Chile hit their stride, he was the cutting edge. The tournament's top scorer, he could not break the deadlock in the Final but, unlike the Argentinian strikers, he made the keeper work from both of Chile's half-chances.

Alexis SANCHEZ
(Chile)
Had perhaps burnt himself out by the Final, but in the previous three games he had run defences ragged, moving across the line, scoring and creating. Had a much better tournament than last year, when he clinched the title in the penalty shoot-out.
Honourable mentions: Salomon RONDON (Venezuela), Clint DEMPSEY (USA) and Jefferson MONTERO (Ecuador)

seem to be out of the question – from a South American point of view it makes no sense – but there will surely be increased co-operation. This tournament, though, highlighted one reason for this coming more at club than national team level. The Copa was very disappointing for the CONCACAF teams, with all six of them suffering at least one defeat by a margin of three goals or more, to six different opponents. Of the South Americans, only Bolivia and Venezuela went down by this margin, both to Argentina, and for the Venezuelans it was a game from which they emerged with some credit.

Victor Montagliani, CONCACAF's new president, tried to put a brave face on it, saying the tournament was an excellent experience and that it had been a case of "two steps forward and half a step back." But it seems clear that the region has more chance of being competitive with South America at club level, where the synergies – tradition and momentum – would seem to be obvious.

Moreover, there is an elephant in the room at international level. This was the biggest football event in the USA since the World Cup of 1994. US Soccer president Sunil Galati spoke of the Copa attracting "World Cup numbers" and made it clear that he saw the competition as a showcase for USA 2026. South America, though, are committed to a centenary World Cup in Uruguay and Argentina in 2030.

It is not easy to imagine two consecutive competitions in the Americas, so these confederations, partners in this Copa, may soon become rivals.

GROUP A

Any confidence the hosts had picked up in their warm-up games soon evaporated as the USA gave away two cheap goals to Colombia in the tournament's opening game.

After centre-back Cristian Zapata punished some slack marking at a corner, and James Rodriguez had stuck away his penalty after a handball, the US were left needing to beat Costa Rica, who had fought out a tame goalless draw with Paraguay in a match that suffered from being played in fierce afternoon heat of Orlando.

Costa Rica had nothing of the defensive solidity which underpinned their progress to the 2014 World Cup quarters and their three centre-back formation played into the hands of Jurgen Klinsmann's side.

Playing in the false-nine role, Clint Dempsey had acres of space to pick out quick, wide strikers Bobby Wood and Gyardi Zardes. A 4-0 win boosted morale and gave the USA some much needed momentum.

Colombia, meanwhile, became the first team through to the quarter-finals after beating Paraguay 2-1. It was another early show from the Colombians, who took the early lead through Carlos Bacca. His link-up play with Rodriguez, who added a second, was looking ominous, although Paraguay did fight back, with their attacking midfielders Oscar Romero and Miguel Almiron creating problems. Substitute Victor Ayala pulled one back with a magnificent strike, but the loss of Romero to a rash red card with 10 minutes to go ensured that parity was beyond them.

In a showdown in Philadelphia between a Paraguay side who had to win, and a US team that only needed a draw, the tournament itinerary clearly worked against the Paraguayans.

Only Uruguay had more travelling to do in the group stage – and it may be no coincidence that neither side made it out of their group. Paraguay lacked the necessary fizz and could not even take advantage when US right-back DeAndre Yedlin was sent off shortly after half-time. Dempsey, again impressive, scored the goal that not only took the hosts into the last eight but also meant they topped the group. That was because Colombia boss Jose Pekerman fielded a reserve side against Costa Rica and watched his back-up defence collapse. Despite Rodriguez, Edwin Cardona and Juan Guillermo Cuadrado all coming on in the second half, Costa Rica held on to win 3-2.

Carlos Bacca's link-up play for Colombia with James Rodriguez was looking ominous

On target...James Rodriguez celebrates his goal in Colombia's 2-1 victory over Paraguay

GROUP B

Safe as houses...Ecuador keeper Alexander Dominguez keeps Haiti at bay

After a header from Paolo Guerrero gave Peru a hard-won 1-0 victory over Haiti, the feeling that these two teams were just making up the numbers became stronger after the 0-0 draw between Brazil and Ecuador in Pasadena.

In what was a splendid first half, Ecuador were dangerous on the counter-attack despite being pushed back for the most part by Brazil, whose attempts to play through midfield were aided by the introduction of Casemiro in the holding role. The lack of a cutting edge was a worry, however, and it nearly proved costly when Miller Bolanos beat keeper Alisson from an impossible angle at the near post, only for the linesman to mistakenly believe that the ball had gone out of play.

Brazil dropped off badly after half-time, but they filled their boots in their next game, Philippe Coutinho scoring a hat-trick and Renato Augusto getting two as Haiti were crushed 7-1.

Then, in Phoenix, Ecuador and Peru served up one of the games of the tournament. Finding their form from the start, Peru built up an early lead with goals from Cristian Cueva and Edison Flores, before Ecuador's speed and power down the flanks saw them draw level through Enner Valencia and Bolanos. Both sides pushed for a winner without success, although Ecuador centre-back Gabriel Achilier did pick up a red card.

Shock...Peru keeper Pedro Gallese against Brazil

In front of nearly 50,000 of their fans in New Jersey, Ecuador brushed Haiti aside to win 4-0 and make the quarter-finals. To join them Peru, improbably, would have to beat Brazil in Boston.

That looked all the more unlikely during a first half that was totally dominated by the Brazilians. For a while, only goalkeeper Pedro Gallese stood between Brazil and a rout. But that lack of cutting edge was felt again and once more they fell away badly in the second half. Peru took advantage with a controversial winner when Andy Polo burst past Luis Filipe and crossed for substitute Raul Ruidiaz to turn home – albeit with the help of his arm.

There was still time for some late, frenetic Brazilian pressure before the final whistle signalled the end of Brazil's campaign and Dunga's second spell as coach of the national side.

Clash...Venezuela's Tomas Rincon (left) and Jobi McAnuff of Jamaica

Venezuela's 1-0 victory against Jamaica got the group off to a tame start, with Josef Martinez's goal coming from a high press as the opposition tried to play out of defence.

There were plenty of fireworks when Mexico met Uruguay in Phoenix. The Uruguayans, who were forced to stand as the national anthem of Chile was played instead of their own, conceded an own goal and had Matias Vecino sent off before half time. Traditionally so good with their backs to the wall, they hauled themselves back into contention, and after Mexico had Andres Guardado sent off, captain Diego Godin equalised with a typically towering header from a free-kick. However, Mexico snatched the points with late goals from Rafa Marquez and Hector Herrera.

Grumbling away, the Uruguayans crossed the country to Philadelphia for a game against Venezuela that would define the group. Oscar Tabarez picked a strange side, using Cristian Stuani as a striker, when at international level he is more effective arriving in the box from a wide midfield position. Venezuela held on comfortably and won with an extraordinary goal after Alejandro Guerra's shot from the half-way line was tipped onto the bar by Fernando Muslera before Salomon Rondon guided home the rebound.

Still recovering from an injury sustained at the end of the club season, Luis Suarez warmed up but had not been included on the team-sheet and he could only punch the dugout in frustration when, as Uruguay piled on the pressure, Edinson Cavani shot wide when clean through. Venezuela were therefore through to the knockout stage and Uruguay's early elimination was confirmed when Mexico made sure of the other slot, beating Jamaica 2-0 while exhibiting defensive vulnerabilities that would become significant later on.

Fireworks...Uruguay (in blue) and Mexico

Uruguay finished off with a 3-0 victory over Jamaica, who had failed to score for a second year running and conceded twice as many goals.

There was plenty at stake in Houston even though Venezuela and Mexico had both qualified. The side that topped the group looked sure to avoid Argentina in the quarter-finals, but needing only a draw Mexico fell behind early on. They did not equalise until 10 minutes from time, when Jesus Corona, danced through the heart of the defence to at last beat Hernandez and ensure, theoretically at least, an easier quarter-final for the Mexicans.

GROUP C

With Lionel Messi yet to recover from a rib injury picked up in a friendly against Honduras, he did not take to the field for Argentina's opening game against Chile, in a rerun of last year's Final. Without him there was plenty of intensity, but little clarity in a midfield battle where it always looked as if the first goal would be vital.

The best chance of the first half fell to Alexis Sanchez, who drew a fine save from Argentina keeper Sergio Romero. Soon after the break, Charles Aranguiz, the hero of last year's game, was caught in possession and Angel Di Maria gave Argentina a lead that was soon doubled by Ever Banega. Jose Pedro Fuenzalida's stoppage-time header was mere consolation for Chile.

> The match ceased to be competitive after an hour when Messi came off the bench to score three and set up another in a 5-0 cruise

Panama had earlier achieved a rare CONCACAF victory over South American opposition, beating Bolivia 2-1, with both goals scored by veteran centre-forward Blas Perez. Panama made life hard for themselves with their lack of discipline, picking up six bookings and handing the Bolivians several opportunities from set-pieces.

There were another six yellow cards in Panama's next game, against Argentina, with two of them for Anibal Godoy, who was sent off after just half an hour. Down to 10 men and trailing to an early goal, Panama still pressed forward and looked close to an equaliser. But the match ceased to be competitive after an hour when Messi came off the bench to score three and set up another in a 5-0 cruise.

Super sub...Lionel Messi scores against Panama

Chile looked out of sorts against a limited Bolivia, who drew level at 1-1 with a magnificent Jhasmani Campos free-kick. A shadow of last year's team, Chile were fortunate to be awarded a penalty nine minutes into stoppage time and Arturo Vidal, who had scored the first goal, coolly converted to win the game.

Argentina brushed Bolivia aside 3-0 before the group phase came to a conclusion with a match of great significance between Chile and Panama. The reigning champions needed a draw while Panama had to win to go through – but they would have to do it without three suspended key players.

Panama took an early lead, but with Sanchez and Vidal working in tandem, their defence was opened up and there were two goals apiece for Eduardo Vargas and Sanchez, before Chile keeper Claudio Bravo was at fault for a second time and Panama scored again.

GROUP D

QUARTER-FINALS

USA 2
ECUADOR 1

Worried about the threat of Ecuador's wingers, Jurgen Klinsmann tweaked his tactical formation, withdrawing Gyardi Zardes to wide right in midfield and pushing Alejandro Bedoya wide left. But the central idea remained, with the experience and technical excellence of Clint Dempsey working in tandem with the pace of Bobby Wood – and it was this partnership that helped put the USA two goals ahead.

With Wood's diagonal runs taking centre-back Arturo Mina with him, Ecuador's best defender in the air was not around to deal with the two crosses, from Jermaine Jones on the right and then Matt Besler on the left, that led to goals for Dempsey and Zardes.

Ecuador launched a furious response and the game was reduced to 10-a-side when Antonio Valencia and Jones were dismissed. Michael Arroyo reduced the deficit with a fierce strike from the edge of the area, but twice centre-forward Enner Valencia headed wide when it looked easier to score.

The striker did have the ball in the net from a Jefferson Montero through ball but he was ruled – perhaps wrongly – to be offside as the USA held on.

Off...USA's Jermaine Jones (right)

PERU 0
COLOMBIA 0

(Colombia won 4-2 on penalties)

A sell-out crowd in New Jersey deserved far better than this poor game, which exposed the limitations of the Colombians.

And after eliminating Brazil, a touch more swagger and confidence might have been expected from Peru, who beat Colombia 2-0 in the 2011 quarter-finals.

James Rodriguez hit the inside of a post early on for Colombia, who became increasingly frustrated as the game went on. And as their coach, Jose Pekerman, pointed out afterwards, they were uncomfortable having to take the initiative. A lack of authority in central midfield is one of the reasons they have been so disappointing since the World Cup.

Peru nearly snatched it right at the end, when Cristian Ramos' header from a corner produced a fine save from David Ospina. And with keeper Pedro Gallese in such fine form, Peru went into the shoot-out with some confidence. But Colombia held their nerve with their first four kicks, while Peru left-back Miguel Trauco's spot-kick was saved and Cristian Cueva fired over to seal their elimination.

Stopper...Colombian players celebrate with their goalkeeper, David Ospina

Double... Gonzalo Higuain

ARGENTINA 4
VENEZUELA 1

With Lionel Messi making his first start of the campaign, Venezuela coach Rafael Dudamel introduced Luis Manuel Seijas into a three-man block in central midfield, with Josef Martinez retreating to wide left and Alejandro Guerra pushed out wide right in a 4-5-1, in a bid to contain him. Messi, however, took just a matter of minutes to undo the plan.

Having moved out to the right flank, he delivered a cunning through ball which was met on the half-volley by Gonzalo Higuain for a clever finish into the far corner. It was a first goal of a frustrating tournament for the striker, and a few minutes later his new-found confidence was evident as he latched on to a dreadful back pass from Arquimedes Figuera to round the keeper and double the lead.

Venezuela came back into the game in the last 15 minutes of the first half, with Salomon Rondon heading against the post and then Seijas wasting a golden opportunity from the penalty spot, chipping his "Panenka" spot-kick into the arms of keeper Sergio Romero.

Argentina punished that let-off after the break when Messi scored a third. Rondon pulled a goal back, but any thoughts of a comeback were stifled when sub Erik Lamela added a fourth.

The final scoreline made it look comfortable, but coach Gerardo Martino confessed afterwards that he had been concerned by Venezuela's spell of dominance and he recognised the importance of Romero's penalty save.

CHILE 7
MEXICO 0

This match-up of two attack-minded teams always looked like producing one of the games of the tournament, but few would have suspected such an outcome.

For financial reasons, Mexico's games had been condensed into the west and the south, where they could be relied upon to pack out grounds, so in essence they were the home side in a hostile environment in Santa Clara.

Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio likes long transitions to his wingers but it does make the pitch big – and Chile, with their quick passing, attacking game, threw plenty of men forward to take full advantage of the space. With Alexis Sanchez dragging Mexican defenders all over the place, Edson Puch was free to give Chile the lead, which was doubled just before half-time by Eduardo Vargas.

Familiar sight...Chile find the Mexican net again

Chasing the game, Osorio took off Jesus Duenas – and it opened the door to a massacre. With no holding midfielder, Chile poured through to score three in 11 minutes. Vargas finished with four, Edson Puch two and Sanchez one in a scoreline that was barely credible but an entirely fair reflection of the balance of play.

Osorio later accepted full responsibility for getting his tactics and strategy wrong. In the ever-turbulent world of Mexican football politics there were rumours that he might be sacked but, battered and humbled, he hung on.

SEMI-FINALS

USA 0
ARGENTINA 4

With the momentum of three consecutive victories, plenty of support in a capacity crowd in Houston and two days more rest than their rivals, there was plenty of confidence that the USA could pull off an upset. But that faith lasted less than three minutes, as Argentina took the lead and never lost their grip on an extremely one-sided game.

With Nico Gaitan suspended, Ezequiel Lavezzi was a surprise inclusion for Argentina but, with the USA set up in a 4-4-2, Messi played more centrally, with Lavezzi adding width on the left. And he quickly put Argentina ahead, nodding home a Messi chip at the near post after a short corner had deceived the defence into expecting a deep cross.

The US were never allowed to play their way into the game as Argentina pressed relentlessly. In for the suspended Bobby Wood, striker Chris Wondolowski dropped back to help out his outgunned team-mates but conceded the free-kick from which Messi became Argentina's all-time top scorer. Brad Guzan made the fatal mistake of edging behind his wall, but even so the shot whipped into the far top corner would have beaten better keepers.

Hopes of an American comeback were extinguished straight after the break when Messi found Lavezzi wide on the left and his diagonal slip behind the defensive line was forced home by Gonzalo Higuain.

With the US failing to muster a single shot during the entire 90 minutes and utterly unable to get Clint Dempsey into the game, Argentina completed the rout shortly before the end with Messi finding a delightful angle to slip a pass to Higuain to tap in for his fourth goal in two games.

Argentina's only concerns were a broken arm for Lavezzi when he fell over an advertising board and a muscular injury to midfielder Augusto Fernandez.

CHILE 2
COLOMBIA 0

With an electrical storm expected to hit Chicago during the course of the game, its effects appeared to have been felt early, scrambling the brains of the Colombian defenders who effectively threw this game away before the 12-minute mark.

Having replaced right-winger Edson Puch, who scored twice against Mexico, with Jose Pedro Fuenzalida, Chile sought to exploit Colombia's lop-sided defence. Strong on the right, where winger Juan Cuadrado protects the full-back, Colombia are not so well protected on the opposite flank and Chile took advantage.

Colombia left-back Frank Fabra could not get to grips with Fuenzalida, whose early cross was headed inadvertently back across his own goal by Cuadrado. Centre-back Jeison Murillo, who had been tracking the forward burst of Charles Aranguiz, inexplicably stopped, leaving the Chilean free to volley home from close range.

The second goal was even worse from a defensive point of view. Chile keeper Claudio Bravo's kick put Alexis Sanchez one-on-one with right-back Santiago Arias. And with no cover, Sanchez cut inside and hit the inside of the near post. The rebound was tapped in by Fuenzalida, with Fabra again not in the frame.

Colombia set about trying to reduce the deficit, and may well have been aided by the half-time arrival of that storm. Rain pounded down while fans were told to take shelter from the bolts of lightning. There was talk of having to complete the match the next day, but after a delay of two-and-a-half hours the game was ready to resume.

Having had a long time to think about their strategy, Colombia replaced the disappointing Cardona with Marlos Moreno in a bid to open up the pitch, but it all came awry when Carlos Sanchez was sent off early in the second half.

With more panic than precision, and a lack of someone in central midfield to knit the side together, Colombia never really looked like getting back on level terms.

Clash...Colombia's Daniel Torres (in white) challenges Eduardo Vargas

Difficult...Michael Bradley tries to stop Lionel Messi

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

USA 0
COLOMBIA 1

After the hammering by Argentina, the USA needed to give something to their fans in Phoenix so this was never likely to be a mere exercise in going through the motions, while Jurgen Klinsmann's comment that his side had been too nice in the semi-final were also guaranteed to raise the temperature.

And so the tackles went flying, resulting in red cards for both Michael Orozco of the US and Colombia's Santiago Arias by the final whistle.

Prior to his dismissal, Arias had been the game's decisive force, charging forward from right-back and dovetailing well with winger Juan Cuadrado. Arias had set up the only goal of the game as part of a delightful four-man move, overlapping and crossing for Carlos Bacca to slide the ball over the line.

Cuadrado later hit the bar with a wonderful chip that deserved better, but the US had plenty of pressure and nearly equalised when Bobby Wood's left-footed shot came back off a post.

TEAM BY TEAM

Winners

CHILE

A deeply satisfying win because it ratifies last year's inaugural title – and this one came without home advantage and any controversy about hosts being favoured by the referees. The team rallied after a poor start, but the question remains: has this generation now peaked?

Runners-up

ARGENTINA

Another Final defeat, and the way it happened, proved sufficiently painful to turn this tournament from a solution into a problem. Still no senior title since 1993, and now probably without Lionel Messi, they will also be looking for a new coach after Gerardo Martino stepped down.

Third place

COLOMBIA

An inconclusive tournament from a team who have disappointed since enjoying their best World Cup two years ago. They have talent, but a lack of authority in central midfield makes them look uncomfortable when forced to take the initiative. Can the youngsters in the Olympic team provide any solutions?

Fourth place

USA

Achieved Jurgen Klinsmann's target of reaching the semi-finals, stringing together three consecutive wins along the way. Totally outclassed by Argentina, but can look back with pleasure at a tournament when the Clint Dempsey/Bobby Wood combination up top functioned well.

Eliminated in the quarter-finals

ECUADOR

Made it out of the group stage for the first time since 1997, but will be disappointed at not going further. Showcased the attacking power which has served them in World Cup qualification, but as the defeat to the US highlights, defence is still a problem.

MEXICO

A barely credible, crushing defeat to Chile overshadowed everything. Coach Juan Carlos Osorio stays – for now – and his emphasis on wide players is an interesting fit with the type of player that Mexico produces. However, against top quality opposition, will Osorio be able to introduce more solidity without sacrificing his main attacking ideal?

PERU

One of the tournament's big winners. Came with an experimental squad and went out unbeaten, having also claimed the scalp of Brazil. However, coming third in both the last two Copas proved meaningless once World Cup qualification started. Peru have a lot of ground to make up on the road to Russia – will this tournament serve as a springboard to better things?

VENEZUELA

An excellent start for new coach Rafael Dudamel. Maybe surprised even themselves with the solidity of their defence in the group stage, and even in quarter-final defeat they gave the Argentina defence more problems than anyone else. Russia 2018 already looks an impossible dream, but at least they come away from the Copa with morale restored.

Inconclusive... Colombia's Roger Martinez (in white)

Champions...Chile (right) celebrate retaining the Copa

Surprise... Venezuela's Adalberto Penaranda caused problems for Argentina

Unlucky...Haiti and Romain Genevois (right) made a good start against Peru

Downfall... Gil of Brazil

Disappointing...defeats got heavier for JeVaughn Watson (right) and Jamaica with each passing game

Nearly men...Panama's Blas Perez

Attacking power...Enner Valencia scores against Peru

Eliminated in the group stage

BOLIVIA

As shambolic as could be expected given everything that has happened with the national team since the quarter-finals in Chile a year ago. Desperately limited, offering a threat only at free-kicks, and defensively porous. Coach Julio Cesar Baldivieso was later sacked.

BRAZIL

Nothing short of a disastrous tournament which had been built up as a test for the job security of coach Dunga and duly brought about his downfall. They did play some interesting football in flashes, with more emphasis on moving the ball through midfield, but ultimately failed to score in the games that mattered, where the fretful second halves reflected a panicky coach who was out of his depth.

COSTA RICA

A grave disappointment when compared with their surprise run to the World Cup quarter-finals two years ago. Their defending in the key second game against the USA was astonishingly naive and an enormous contrast with the disciplined unit of 2014. Their attacking stars did not shine until it was too late.

HAITI

Although they very nearly snatched a draw in their opening match of the tournament, against Peru, they found themselves duly softened up and became whipping boys in the subsequent games. At least their consolation goal against Brazil was one of the most celebrated moments of the tournament.

JAMAICA

An immense disappointment, especially in the light of last year's Copa, when they lost all three games but only by a single goal. That experience gave rise to hopes of something better this time, especially after they won away to Chile in a warm-up. But in the US not only did they once more fail to score, their defeats became heavier with every match.

PANAMA

Yet again CONCACAF's nearly men. Had good moments in all their games and were competitive against Argentina with 10 men until Lionel Messi came on. Badly let down by a lack of discipline, with 15 yellow cards in three games. Key players are ageing and will surely be reflecting on yet more missed opportunities.

PARAGUAY

Only one goal in three games is a grim statistic, but behind it there are some interesting young talents coming through. The level of performance was acceptable considering the itinerary was unfavourable, all of which makes the decision of coach Ramon Diaz to resign hard to understand.

URUGUAY

Can comfort themselves by looking at the World Cup qualification table, which they top. Nothing they did in the US makes sense, especially as they were handed the most punishing itinerary of all. Had the chance to blood youngsters and instead brought an ageing full-strength squad. Selection, especially in the crunch game with Venezuela, was bizarre. A tournament to forget.

Brazil bid for elusive Olympic gold in Rio

As usual, football at Rio's Olympics will be staged nationwide, with the 32 games played at seven venues in six cities. All of the grounds hosted 2014 World Cup games with the exception of Rio's Engenhao which, after a couple of group games, becomes the centre of the planet in the second week of the Games when it plays host to the athletics.

The football action stretches from Manaus in the north and Salvador in the north east to Brasilia in the centre and the south-eastern cities of Belo Horizonte, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, where the Final will be played in the Maracana.

Thankfully, the modern trend of making everyone travel all the time has been limited and teams will play their first two games at the same venue and only have to pack their suitcases for the final game.

In order to fit in all of the matches, the competition kicks off before the opening ceremony. This happens at every Games and usually helps to give the tournament some extra visibility, but that is hardly necessary on the continent where football is undisputed king.

Brazil, who finished 22nd in the 2012 medal table, are the South American nation with by far the widest sporting base. When Argentina, for example, won a taekwondo gold medal in London, it was their first by an individual athlete since 1948, the year that Peru won its only gold medal, in shooting. Colombia and Venezuela both won their second-ever golds in London four years ago, in cycling and fencing respectively, while Chile have won a couple, Ecuador one and Bolivia have yet to win any kind of medal. Paraguay's only medal was a silver in the football tournament of 2004, and Uruguay's only golds were from the football tournaments of 1924 and 28 – the conquests which effectively led to the birth of the World Cup.

> Of all the titles available to Brazil, the Olympic gold medal is the only one yet to go in the trophy cabinet

For the local audience, the football

Euro hopes...Spain and Xavi (centre) were the last European team to reach an Olympic Final, in 2000

Leader...Neymar carries Brazilian hopes on his shoulders

tournament will be one of the most significant events of the Games, with added spice coming from the remarkable fact that of all the titles available to the Brazilian national team, the Olympic gold medal is the only one that has yet to go into the trophy cabinet.

There have been several frustrations and near misses, but on home ground Neymar and company will be expected to put that right. It is also an important PR opportunity. In a recent poll during the Copa America – but before Brazil's dramatic exit – a whopping 91 per cent of those polled in Sao Paulo state expressed no interest in the national team. This is a

Low profile...Brazil coach Rogerio Micale

volatile number – before 2014 it may well have been 91 per cent the other way – and a glowing campaign with a gold medal at the end of it will help regain lost ground.

So there is considerable pressure on the hosts – who, of course, ended up buckling in such humiliating fashion under the burden of playing in front of their own fans in the last World Cup.

Brazil's preparations have also been thrown off course by recent developments. The original plan had been for youth supremo Alexandre Gallo to take charge of the Olympic side. But he was sacked early last year after poor performances in the South American Under-20 Championship. Senior coach Dunga, who had previously ruled himself out, saw the opportunity and leapt at the chance to have a crack at making history with the Olympic squad. But he lost his job in mid-June after the Copa Centenario fiasco. Replacement Tite did not want to be parachuted in at such short notice – and he has enough on his plate with the World Cup qualification campaign, where Brazil at present are off the pace.

And so Rogerio Micale, a low-profile youth specialist, is the man in charge – which has the benefit of coherence. Over the last few months, when the senior team have been busy with FIFA dates, Micale has commanded the team in a series of preparation friendlies. Added to that squad are 38-year-old Palmeiras keeper Fernando Prass, Douglas Costa and Neymar, giving the side considerable firepower alongside the young lions Gabriel Barbosa, who saw senior action in the Copa, and the similarly highly-rated Gabriel Jesus and Luan.

Providing playing at home is more of an advantage than a psychological burden, then Brazil should be the favourites – though the South American opposition has suddenly become more interesting.

Where Brazil chose to have Neymar for the Olympics rather than the Copa America, Argentina went all out to win the latter, leaving Rio 2016 for long-term youth development. Now, though, there is more urgency in the air. The fall out from losing yet another Final, with Lionel Messi quitting international football and others seemingly set to follow his lead, means Argentina need to rebuild their senior side in a hurry, during the World Cup qualifiers. Places are up for grabs and those who might have seen themselves as way back in the queue could now be in action in the Russia 2018 qualifiers that start in September. The Olympic tournament, therefore, is a great place for them to stake their claim.

Similarly, Colombia come out of the Copa with a mild feeling of dissatisfaction, despite finishing in third place. Ever since reaching the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time two years ago, the quality of the senior side's play has been disappointing. The team seems to be struggling for an identity and the door to promotion should be open for members of an interesting under-23 generation who will be travelling to Brazil.

The tournament, though, is hard to predict. In the majority of cases these squads have not grown organically – they are being thrown together for the

Experience...Germany's Julian Brandt (in white) takes on Fiji in the 2015 Under-20 World Cup

> Providing playing at home is more of an advantage than a psychological burden, then Brazil should be the favourites

Over-age... Japan's Hiroki Fujiharu

Rivalry...Denmark (in red) and Sweden clash in last year's Euro Under-21 semi-finals

Group guide

A

Hosts **Brazil** are seeking to win the one title that has eluded them and they will look to over-age players Neymar and Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa. The squad also includes teenage Santos striker Gabriel Barbosa, Lazio midfielder Felipe Anderson and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos. They are in a group with 2015 European Under-21 semi-finalists **Denmark**, **Iraq** – who finished fourth at the 2004 Athens Olympics and beat Qatar in a play-off to qualify as Asia's third team in Rio – and **South Africa**, who beat Senegal in an African play-off. South Africa have competed once before, in 2000, when a team featuring Benni McCarthy and Quinton Fortune beat a Ronaldinho-led Brazil side but failed to get out of their group.

B

Nigeria, the 1996 gold-medallists, hope to include Chelsea midfielder Jon Obi Mikel in their squad, but that will depend on new coach Antonio Conte. Goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi and Odion Ighalo were also included as over-age players, along with Arsenal striker Alex Iwobi in a 35-man provisional party. **Sweden**, the European under-21 champions, included Zlatan Ibrahimovic in their provisional squad but the striker has since confirmed his international retirement. **Colombia**, who finished second in the South American Under-20 Championship, will be competing at the Olympics for the first time since 1992. Asia qualifiers **Japan** have included J.League players Tsukasa Shiotani, Hiroki Fujiharu and Shinzo Koroki as their over-age players.

Fatherly advice...Gio Simeone (right) of Argentina

C **Germany**, who reached the semi-finals of last summer's Euro Under-21s, will be taking part in the Olympics for the first time since 1988 and have no plans to add over-age players to their squad. They face the 2012 gold-medallists **Mexico**, who are confident of retaining their title after winning the CONCACAF qualifying section. Hirving Lozano, who is a reported target for Manchester United, is unlikely to feature after playing at the Copa America. **South Korea** have included Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min as one of their over-age players, along with Suk Hyun-jun of Porto and Jang Hyun-soo of Guangzhou R&F. **Fiji**, the Oceania qualifiers after beating Vanuatu in a play-off, will be taking part in their first Olympics.

D **Argentina** won back-to-back golds in 2004 and 2008, and are the reigning South American under-20 champions. Their preliminary squad included Paulo Dybala (against the wishes of his club, Juventus) and Internazionale's Mauro Icardi, as well as Gio Simone, son of Atletico coach Diego. **Portugal**, the Euro Under-21 runners-up in 2015, will not include Cristiano Ronaldo as one of their three over-age players. **Algeria**, runners-up to Nigeria in the African qualifying competition, will be competing at the Olympics for the first time. **Honduras**, who edged out USA to take the second CONCACAF qualifying berth, may struggle to match their performance at London 2012, when they reached the quarter-finals.

occasion. And even when there has been some continuity and team-building, the presence of three permitted over-age players (older than 23) introduces a random element to proceedings. It will be interesting to see which top-class, European-based stars actually board the plane. As the tournament is not on the official FIFA calendar there is no obligation on clubs to release their players, and given that the action coincides with the start of the club season, serious negotiations could be needed to secure the participation of some of the biggest names. Neymar, for example, is only available because Brazil did not call him up for the Copa Centenario.

The relative insignificance of the tournament is made clear by the absence of European domination. Argentina are the only non-western European nation to have appeared in any of the last three World Cup Finals. In the Olympics, though, 2000 silver-medalists Spain are the only Europeans to have made it to any of the last five deciders. Over that time the list of winners reads as follows, working backwards from 2012; Mexico, Argentina (twice), Cameroon and Nigeria. The winners have come from CONCACAF, South America and Africa, and the losers, Spain excepted, have also been either South American or African. On the first occasion that the Games have ever come to South America, the local boys must clearly be the ones to watch.

It may not say a great deal – and the fact it does not gets a broad hint from Argentina's mourning for a lack of a senior title since 1993, despite winning Olympic gold in 2004 and 2008 – but whatever it is worth, Brazil would love to add their name to that winners list on August 20.

Tim Vickery

ZIKA FEARS HANG OVER COMPETITION

An Olympic football tournament in Brazil, playing at the same venues as the men's 2014 World Cup, ought to be a highlight of any female footballer's career. But many will go with mixed feelings. The spectre of the Zika virus hangs over the women's football competition, as it does for many events at the Games.

While to date no leading player has refused to travel, several have expressed concern at the risk of contracting a virus that is particularly dangerous to unborn children. It can cause microcephaly, a birth defect, with more than 5,000 cases reported in Brazil so far this year.

Chief among these are Hope Solo and Alex Morgan, two of the best-known sportswomen in the USA, who both won gold at the 2012 London Olympics and last year's Women's World Cup in Canada.

Goalkeeper Solo initially indicated she would not participate but has since said she will go "begrudgingly", only leaving the team hotel for training and matches. She said: "I strongly believe that no athlete should be put into this position: to decide between your Olympic dreams and your own health." Morgan, the world's highest-earning female footballer, added: "The Zika virus is definitely a concern."

> "I strongly believe that no athlete should be put into this position: to decide between your Olympic dreams and your own health"
> **USA goalkeeper Hope Solo**

While the majority of elite women footballers do not have children, a significant number are of an age where they are considering starting a family. Indeed, US striker Amy Rodriguez will miss the Games as she is due to give birth shortly before the start, while World Cup winning team-mate Sydney Leroux will also be absent as she too is expecting.

Exacerbating concern for the players is that the football competition will be played at venues throughout Brazil – including Manaus, in the Amazon, and Salvador, in the tropical north east, where the virus first surfaced in the country. The USA are one of four teams scheduled to play in Manaus and Solo branded the IOC's refusal to move matches from the jungle arena as "irresponsible".

Lisa De Vanna, co-captain of Australia, who play in Salvador, says: "I asked 'Staj' [coach Alen Stajcic]: 'Obviously there's a bit of diseases and viruses in Brazil, why are we going there [to a training camp] a month before?' And he goes: 'If you're going to catch it, you're going to catch it.'

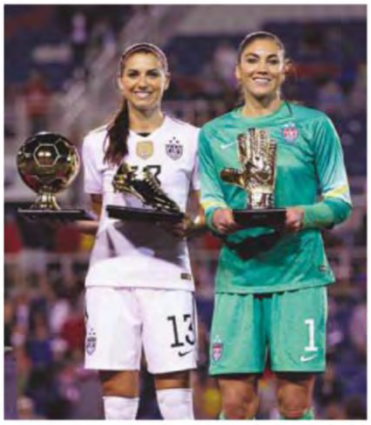
"I am concerned, but we've got our

Group guide

E

Brazil will start favourites – and not just because of their host-nation status. Marta, once the best and highest-paid player in the world, is now 30 and not the stand-out she was, but she is still likely to be one of the significant players in this, her fourth Olympics. So far she has two silver medals. **China** are rising again and, having impressed at the World Cup, they beat World Cup and Olympic finalists Japan to qualify. Early pioneers in the women's game, **Sweden** are gradually being eclipsed by wealthier nations, yet won a competitive four-team tournament to secure the European place England earned but GB gave up. **South Africa**'s *Banyana Banyana* ("the girls") are outsiders, but have improved since their 2012 debut.

Concerned...Alex Morgan (left) and Hope Solo



Re-match...Germany's Tabea Kemme (right) and Amandine Henry of France clash in the World Cup quarter-finals last year

injections, we've got doctors around and you can't control everything, can you?"

In normal circumstances the US would be favourites to lift a fourth successive gold in a tournament that is far more significant for the women's game than the men's, with no age-restrictions on selection. It's second only to the World Cup and its status is one reason players such as Solo are prepared to overcome their reservations to travel.

However, as well as worries about Zika, the team are embroiled in a lawsuit with US Soccer, their employers, over wages. Solo and Morgan are among five players claiming pay parity with the US men's team, arguing that they are more successful and generate more revenue. An Olympic boycott was even mooted, until US Soccer won a legal action preventing it.

Coach Jill Ellis also has selection issues. Besides Leroux and Rodriquez, she will be without the retired quartet of Abby Wambach, Lauren Holiday, Shannon Boxx and Lori Chalupny. Carli Lloyd should be fit after a knee injury, but may be short of playing time. That could open the door for Brazil, beaten in the Final by the US in 2004 and 2008. Seeding suggests the pair should meet in the semi-finals.

The other half of the draw is less balanced with Germany and France set to meet in a repeat of the Word Cup quarter-final when France lost on penalties. Since the World Cup, German goalscorer Celia Sasic and goalkeeper Nadine Angerer have retired, as has Nadine Kessler, who finally surrendered, at 28, to the injuries that ruled her out of Canada. Midfielder Fatmire Alushi is still on the comeback trail after becoming a mother in November. All this should give hope to a French team built around the Champions League winners, Lyon.

A fifth contender ought to be England, who were semi-finalists at the 2015 Women's World Cup, but they will not be taking up the place those exploits earned due to football politics. The Football Associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will not let England play under the Team GB banner for fear of imperilling their own status within FIFA as independent football nations. A combined team played in 2012, but that was a one-off as the Games were in London.

There are two debutants this year: South Africa and shock qualifiers Zimbabwe. Neither are expected to reach the last eight and it is to be hoped that Zimbabwe, in particular, avoid a drubbing like the 10-0 Germany inflicted on Ivory Coast at the World Cup. Such results underline the disparity in the women's game between nations. While players representing the US, France and Germany are full-time professionals, albeit paid a fraction of their male counterparts, in many places the game is part-time at best.

Zimbabwe's leading striker Rudo Neshamba has enrolled on a journalism course, having decided her prospects of making a living from football are slim. This seems a shrewd move given coach Shadreck Mlauzi is constantly campaigning for the players to receive pay and allowances. The Zimbabwean Football Association is so indebted that the men's team has been excluded from the 2018 World Cup for failing to pay off a sacked coach. The women's team were initially thrown out of Olympic qualifying for failing to fulfil a first-leg tie in Ivory Coast. FIFA awarded a 3-0 win instead, only for the Ivory Coast to withdraw.

But even if Zimbabwe struggle, they should benefit in the long term. Such is the profile of the Olympics, merely taking part can prompt significant improvements. Since South Africa's appearance at 2012 they have secured a major sponsor, gained television coverage and won sufficient investment from the national federation to hire a foreign coach, Holland's Vera Pauw.

The only team to interrupt America's dominance is Norway, in 2000. They have not qualified, so if the US do prove vulnerable there will be a new champion. If Brazil's women, who have faced many obstacles at home, seal Olympic gold before their men do it could give the sport there a huge boost.

Glenn Moore

Competitive...Canada's Christine Sinclair (right)

3 TO WATCH

ELODIE THOMIS
(France)
Winger with lightning pace who won the Champions League with Lyon.

CARLI LLOYD
(USA)
Captain and midfielder who scored a hat-trick in the 2015 World Cup Final and is FIFA's World Player of the year. Plays for Houston Dash.

DZSENIFER MAROZSAN
(Germany)
Classy midfielder who can make and take goals, looking to shine after injury affected her World Cup. Recently rejoined Lyon.

F

Three bronze medals are a lean return for a nation that has dominated the European game for more than a decade, and after the disappointment of last year's World Cup **Germany** are hoping to give coach Silvia Neid a golden send-off. Having ended a stand-off over pay and conditions that led to the cancellation of a US tour, **Australia** have grown in experience with a sprinkling of players now in US and German club football. **Canada** will always feel robbed of gold in 2012, having been eliminated in the semis in controversial circumstances, and that will spur them on, along with the competitive coach-captain partnership of John Herdman and Christine Sinclair. **Zimbabwe** are making their debut and are likely to be outclassed.

G

In the most competitive group, **USA** are favourites to win a fourth successive gold despite player concern at Zika and dissatisfaction with their federation, plus a raft of departures from last year's World Cup winners. **France**, the great underachievers of the women's game, seek their first silverware to match the success of their clubs. Dark horses **Colombia** will benefit from the South American location and good support, and they have some excellent players such as the mercurial Lady Andrade and Daniela Montoya. **New Zealand** were unlucky to go out at the group stage in Canada and will be hard to beat. English manager Tony Readings captained AFC Wimbledon in their first league match, in England's tier nine.

(note, groups A-D are in the men's competition)

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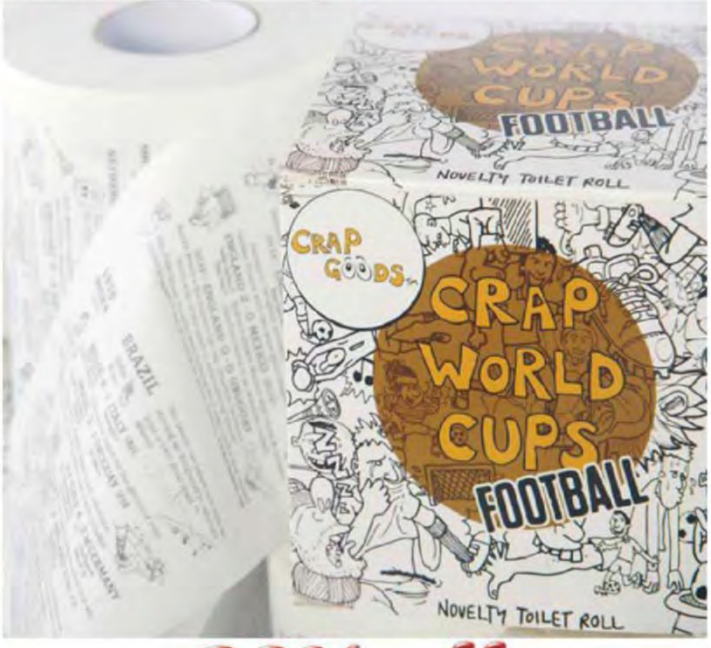

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PLUS

Competitive.... Costa Rica's Celso Borges (left) and Sebastian Perez of Colombia

Upset...Wales bring Belgium down to earth

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JUNE 10-JULY 7, 2016

Global diary

A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Friday June 10

FRANCE: Dimitri Payet scores a late winner as France open the Euro finals with a 2-1 win over Romania.
NIGERIA: Shuaibu Amodu, the only coach to have qualified Nigeria for two World Cups, dies aged 58.

Saturday June 11

COLOMBIA: Frank Fabra makes history as the first player to score at both ends in a Copa America game, in Colombia's 3-2 loss to Costa Rica.
ENGLAND: Crowd disturbances in the stadium, following two nights of violence on the streets, overshadow England's 1-1 draw with Russia.
NEW ZEALAND: A victory on penalties against Papua New Guinea in the Final of the OFC Nations Cup means New Zealand will take part in next year's Confederations Cup.

Sunday June 12

BRAZIL: A 1-0 loss to Peru sees Brazil knocked out of the Copa America in the group stage.
CROATIA: Darijo Srna flies home after the 1-0 victory over Turkey following the death of his father but will return to the Euro finals following the funeral.
SPAIN: Unai Emery parts company with Sevilla after winning the Europa League for the past three seasons.
TUNISIA: Etoile du Sahel claim a 10th league title with a 3-0 win at Marsa to finish the season five points ahead of CS Sfaxien and Esperance.

Monday June 13

ITALY: Gianluigi Buffon plays in a record-breaking third European Championship as captain as Italy beat Belgium 2-0. His club side, Juventus, sign Miralem Pjanic from Roma for €32million.
MEXICO: A 1-1 draw with Venezuela sets a new Mexican record of 22 international games without defeat.
SPAIN: David Silva wins his 100th cap in Spain's late 1-0 victory against Czech Republic.

Tuesday June 14

BRAZIL: National coach Dunga and his coaching staff are sacked two days after Brazil exit the Copa America at the group stage for the first time in almost 30 years.
HUNGARY: At 40 years and 74 days, Hungary goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly becomes the oldest player to a appear in a Euro finals as his side beat Austria 2-0.
ICELAND: Birkir Bjarnason scores Iceland's equaliser as they draw 1-1 with Portugal in their first-ever game at a major tournament.
NORTHERN IRELAND: Portadown are given a 12-point deduction in next season's Irish Premiership for a registration breach involving winger Peter McMahon, who was paid while on amateur forms with the club.
RUSSIA: UEFA issues a suspended disqualification and says Russia will be thrown out of Euro 2016 if their supporters cause further trouble. England were also threatened with disqualification from the tournament but were not formally charged.

Gone...Dunga watches his Brazil side bow out to Peru in the Copa America

Wednesday June 15

FRANCE: Late goals from Antoine Griezmann and Dimitri Payet give France a 2-0 victory over Albania and they become the first team to qualify for the knockout stage.

Thursday June 16

NORTHERN IRELAND: Goals from Gareth McAuley and Niall McGinn give Northern Ireland a 2-0 win over Ukraine, who are the first side to exit Euro 2016.

Friday June 17

NIGERIA: A team official and seven players are treated in hospital after the bus carrying Ikorodu United to the town of Makurdi for a Premier League game against Lobi Stars is involved in a traffic accident.
SPAIN: Sergio Ramos becomes Spain most-capped outfield player as he makes his 134th appearance in the 3-0 victory over Turkey.

Saturday June 18

CHILE: Eduardo Vargas scores four times as Chile beat Mexico 7-0 in the Copa America to inflict their heaviest-ever major finals defeat.
MOROCCO: At the 25th time of asking, Wydad win away in the CAF Champions League for the first time with a 1-0 victory in the Ivory Coast against ASEC Mimosas.
PORTUGAL: Cristiano Ronaldo misses a penalty in a goalless draw

Final...Independiente celebrate winning the Colombian apertura

with Austria on the day that he wins his 128th international appearance and becomes Portugal's most-capped player.

SPAIN: Osasuna return to the top flight, beating Girona 3-1 in the promotion play-off Final.

UGANDA: Vipers win the Ugandan Cup for the first time, beating Onduparaka 3-1 in the Final, as striker Erisa Ssekisambu wins the trophy for a third successive season and with a third different club.

Sunday June 19

COLOMBIA: Independiente Medellin beat Junior 2-0 to win the apertura play-off Final 3-1 on aggregate.

JAPAN: Kazuyoshi Miura breaks his own record as the oldest goalscorer in the Japanese league, finding the net for FC Yokohama in their 2-1 to Gifu in the J.League's second division at the age of 49 years, three months and 24 days.

Monday June 20

BRAZIL: Tite, who won the league championship with Corinthians for a second time last year, is named Brazil's national coach.

ENGLAND: Former Wales striker Ched Evans, who will stand trial for a second time in October following the quashing of his conviction in 2012 for rape, signs a one-year deal with third-tier side Chesterfield.

Tuesday June 21

ARGENTINA: Lionel Messi gets his 55th goal to become his country's record scorer as Argentina beat Copa America hosts USA 4-0.

SWEDEN: Zlatan Ibrahimovic ➤

Africa

MARK GLEESON

'Narco-state' in Nations Cup finals

Guinea-Bissau secure a place in Gabon next year

Guinea-Bissau's qualification for January's African Nations Cup must rank as one of world football's most extraordinary achievements, with the former Portuguese colony being labelled a "narco-state".

One of the world's poorest countries, the tiny west African nation has been beset by almost constant political turmoil and has earned unwanted notoriety as a transit point in the shipment of cocaine from south America to Europe, with both the government and the military said to be complicit in the trafficking of drugs.

Football has barely existed amid the poverty, with Guinea-Bissau only irregular competitors in international events, rarely entering clubs in the annual CAF competitions and hardly ever participating in the qualifying tournament for under-age World Cups.

But taking a cue from neighbouring Cape Verde, the "Djurtus" have sought to strengthen their side with players from the diaspora. And even though they lost their Portuguese coach Paulo Torres to a lengthy suspension – four matches for abusing a referee – after just two games of the campaign, Guinea-Bissau are now in an unassailable lead in their African Nations Cup qualifying group, ahead of 2012 winners Zambia, 2015 quarter-finalists Congo and hapless Kenya.

Guinea-Bissau's squad has consistently changed, with stand-in coach Baciro Cande bringing in new additions almost game by game. Two of the newcomers, Frederic Mendy and Toni Silva, scored on their debuts as a 3-2 win over Zambia, which – followed 24 hours later by Congo's failure to beat Kenya in Nairobi – ensured a place at the finals.

Finishing top of the group is remarkable given Guinea-Bissau had won just four competitive internationals before the qualifiers began. And only once before had they ever made it past the knockout elimination ties and into the group stage of either a Nations Cup or World Cup qualification campaign.

Their achievement is made even more incredulous by the fact that their squad went on strike before the home victory over Zambia, refusing to train for three successive days because they had not been paid promised appearance fees and bonuses.

While they have nothing of the stark time warp that Guinea-Bissau seem to exist in, Zimbabwe have also qualified for the finals, despite overcoming considerable obstacles – including a bankrupt football association, whose possessions are regularly seized by the court sheriff to pay debtors, and a long-running match-fixing scandal.

Zimbabwe's 3-0 victory at home to Malawi in their June qualifier moved them three points clear of Swaziland, who could yet snatch one of the two berths reserved for the best runners-up and join a growing list of fairy-tale qualifiers for the finals.

Swaziland beat Guinea 1-0 to end the west African nation's hopes just a week after Luis Fernandez had quit as Guinea coach. A change of leadership in the Guinea football federation was the spur for the former France international to head back to his role as a high-profile pundit on French radio.

Algeria qualified comfortably with an interim coach after Christian Gourcuff also left just weeks before their penultimate qualifier.

Hosts Gabon, along with Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Morocco and Senegal have also qualified for the finals.

The remaining six places will be decided after the final qualifiers in September. Each of the 13 group winners are joined by the two best runners-up. WS

Against all odds...Guinea-Bissau are heading to the 2017 African Nations Cup finals in Gabon

➤ announces he will retire from international football after the Euro finals.

Wednesday June 22

CHILE: A torrential storm interrupts Chile's Copa America semi-final with Colombia for more than two hours but they keep their composure to win 2-0.
NORTHERN IRELAND: A goal in the fifth minute of injury time maintains Ballinamallard United's top-flight status as they come from behind three times to draw 3-3 and beat Institute 5-4 on aggregate in a promotion/relegation play-off.
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Robbie Brady's 85th-minute winner against Italy sends the Republic of Ireland into the knockout stage of the Euro finals at the expense of Turkey.

Thursday June 23

ENGLAND: Stiliyan Petrov, the 36-year-old Bulgarian midfielder who retired after being diagnosed with acute leukaemia four years ago, will join Aston Villa's pre-season tour of Austria in an attempt to earn himself a new contract.
TURKEY: Galatasaray fail in their appeal to have a ban from European football overturned and therefore will not be able to take their place in the 2016-17 Europa League.

Friday June 24

ALGERIA: ES Setif are ejected from the CAF Champions League after their game with Mamelodi Sundowns on 18 June was abandoned – with their South African visitors leading 2-0 – when violence broke out in the stands.
EGYPT: Ex-Tottenham Hotspur boss Martin Jol claims the league title in his first season as Al Ahly coach with a 2-1 victory against Ismaily.

Saturday June 25

SOUTH AFRICA: Gift Motupa scores twice from the penalty spot as South Africa beat Botswana 3-2 in the COSAFA Cup Final.
USA: Kaka's penalty in the 10th minute of stoppage time gives Orlando City a dramatic 3-2 victory at home to Toronto.

Sunday June 26

ALGERIA: It is announced that Milovan Rajevac will take over as national coach on July 1.
ARGENTINA: Lionel Messi says he has played his last international after missing a penalty in the shoot-out as Argentina lose to Chile in the Copa America Final.
SOUTH KOREA: Jeonbuk Motors set a new K-League record of 16 games unbeaten with a 1-1 draw at Gwangju.
USA: Three days after setting a club record of 10 games unbeaten at home, Philadelphia Union lose 3-2 to Vancouver Whitecaps at their Talen Energy Stadium base.

Monday June 27

ENGLAND: Roy Hodgson resigns as England manager after exiting the Euros with a 2-1 loss to Iceland.
FRANCE: Laurent Blanc, who won the Ligue 1 title in all three of his seasons as coach, parts company with Paris Saint-Germain.
ROMANIA: Anghel Iordanescu steps down as national coach following a disappointing Euro finals.
SPAIN: Defending champions Spain go out at the quarter-final stage of the Euros, losing 2-0 to Italy.

Tuesday June 28

ENGLAND: Liverpool pay £34m for Southampton's Sadio Mane, making him the costliest African in history.
FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain confirm the appointment of Unai Emery as their new coach.
ITALY: Vincenzo Montella leaves Sampdoria to take over as coach of Milan on a two-year contract.

Wednesday June 29

AUSTRIA: National captain Christian Fuchs announces his retirement from international duty following Austria's exit at Euro 2016. The 30-year-old left-back won 78 caps for his country.
BRAZIL: Neymar, Rafinha and Douglas Costa are named in Brazil's 23-man Olympic squad.
CANADA: Toronto lose 2-1 away to Vancouver Whitecaps in the second leg of the Canadian Championship but win the title on away goals after drawing 2-2 on aggregate.

Thursday June 30

CHINA: Brazil forward Hulk moves to Chinese Super League side Shanghai SIPG from Zenit of Russia for an Asian record of €55.8m.
CZECH REPUBLIC: National coach Pavel Vrba leaves his post to take charge of Russian side Anzhi.
ENGLAND: Zlatan Ibrahimovic confirms he will sign for Manchester United after leaving Paris Saint-Germain. Claude Puel agrees a three-year contract to manage Southampton after Ronald Koeman left to take charge of Everton.
PORTUGAL: Victory over Poland puts Portugal in the Euro semis for the fourth time in five tournaments.
RUSSIA: Leonid Slutsky officially ends his reign as coach of the national team.
SPAIN: Vicente Del Bosque says he is stepping down as coach, three days after the holders were knocked out of the Euros by Italy.

Friday July 1

ENGLAND: Assistant manager Ryan Giggs, who made a record 963 appearances for Manchester United, ends his 29-year stay at the club.
SPAIN: Neymar signs a new five-year contract with Barcelona, with a release clause of €200m that rises to €222m in the second year and €250m for the final three.
WALES: Coming from a goal down, Wales beat Belgium 3-1 in the Euro quarter-finals.

Saturday July 2

GERMANY: Victory on penalties over Italy sees Germany reach the Euro semi-finals for an eighth time

MOZAMBIQUE

STEVE MENARY

Give coach more time

Abel Xavier in need of support

While victory in their final African Nations Cup qualifier against Mauritius on September 2 could see Mozambique finishing second in their qualifying group, a place at the finals in Gabon next year as one of the two best runners-up is already beyond The Black Mambas, whose last finals appearance was in Angola in 2010.

After losing their first four qualifiers, a surprise 3-2 win away to Rwanda in June was a much-needed boost for coach Abel Xavier, who took charge in February amid much publicity.

"I am not so sure if Xavier is popular right now but people must give him some time," says former Benfica and Villarreal defender Armando Sa, who won 21 caps for Mozambique.

Born in Nampula, Abel Xavier later moved to Portugal and won 20 caps for Mozambique's former colonial power in a career that took him from Benfica to Real Oveido, PSV, Everton and Liverpool. In contrast, his coaching experience has been mostly in the Portuguese second division.

In 2013, he took charge of Olhanense but only lasted a few months before being fired. After joining Farense at the end of 2014, he saw out the season but was then sacked again after a few months at Aves.

Sa adds: "Before Xavier needed time because he was a young coach, but people need to respect his story. Xavier has a lot of experiences and the potential to be a good manager."

Both Sa and Abel Xavier moved to Portugal as children, but leaving Mozambique for professional contracts abroad is the dream for most players in the local domestic league.

"The football conditions are better now," says Sa, who also played for Espanyol in Spain and Leeds United before ending his career playing in Iran. "Some clubs pay good money but it's difficult

Victorious... Mozambique's Clesio (in red) challenges Rwanda's Michel Rusheshangoga

Black Mambas boss...Abel Xavier

following a 1-1 draw after extra-time.

Sunday July 3

GERMANY: It is revealed that Mario Gomez will miss the rest of the Euros after he tore a muscle against Italy.
ICELAND: The Euro fairy tale ends as Iceland lose 5-2 to hosts France.

Monday July 4

ITALY: Marco Giampaolo, who left Empoli in May, replaces Vincenzo Montella as coach of Sampdoria.
RWANDA: Ismailia Diarra scores the winner as Rayon Sports beat APR 1-0 to win the Rwandan Peace Cup.
USA: Tim Howard keeps a clean sheet in Colorado Rapids' 0-0 draw with Portland Timbers in his first MLS game for 13 years.

Tuesday July 5

ARGENTINA: Gerardo Martino resigns as coach of the national team a week after they lose on penalties to Chile in the Copa America Final.

Wednesday July 6

COLOMBIA: Atletico Nacional win 2-0 in their Copa Libertadores semi-final first leg against Sao Paulo.
PORTUGAL: Cristiano Ronaldo equals Michel Platini's all-time record of nine goals in European Championships as Portugal beat Wales 2-0 to reach the Final.

Thursday July 7

ECUADOR: Independiente del Valle come from behind to beat Boca Juniors 2-1 in the Libertadores Cup.
FRANCE: Antoine Griezmann scores twice as France beat Germany 2-0 in their Euro semi-final.
ROMANIA: Christoph Daum is appointed Romania's national coach on a two-year deal. WS

for players to live there just off soccer."

For players unable or unwilling to reach Europe, such as national-team stalwart Elias "Domingues" Pelembe, the other route out is South Africa.

"Domingues is a very gifted player and should have gone to Europe, but he was happy in South Africa and did not have the motivation," says German coach Gert Engels, who took charge of Mozambique in 2011 after spending 20 years in Japan's J.League at such clubs as Urawa Red Diamonds.

Engels found Mozambique a big change in every aspect. "The league is poor, the pitches are not good and the organisation between the federation and the team needs to improve," he adds. "The league is not strong enough to provide a good national team, so the only way was to go for young talent and use players from abroad.

"I was doubtful of players playing locally for five or six years. I expected some hunger and motivation. If they were 24 or 25 and had only played locally they knew they would not get out of the country at that age. For the younger players, there was motivation as it was the first step and they could get scouted and go abroad."

Engels, who had replaced Mart Nooij, left in 2013 and

> "I am not so sure if Xavier is popular right now but people must give him some time"
> Ex-international Armando Sa

was succeeded by Joao Chissano, who in turn left last year. Engels' former assistant Helder "Mano Mano" Muianga then took over on a temporary basis and hoped for the job permanently but lost out to Xavier.

"I wanted [the job] because I knew the ins and outs of the set-up and the players knew me very well and they understood my ideas," says Muianga, who won 35 caps for Mozambique and played briefly in Europe for Honved.

Now working with local Mozambican team Club Desportivo de Maputo, Muianga is concerned about the lack of a wider strategy and admits: "We forgot about the development, we need to give all the support, equipment and qualified coaches to the youth then we can go somewhere in the future."

Sa agrees, adding: "There needs to be better facilities for the young boys. The schools need to work with the clubs to have better fields because there are good young players there."

More recently, there has been a shift in national team selection to older players, much to the dismay of Engels, who says: "I don't think they understood what I was trying to do. They are just looking for the next result."

That may be a win against Mauritius but longer-term changes are needed to help Abel Xavier succeed. WS

Internationals

COPA AMERICA

Played in the United States

Group A

Jun 3 - Santa Clara
United States 0
Colombia 2 (C Zapata 8, Rodriguez pen 42)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 67,439. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)
United States: Guzan - Yedlin, Cameron, Brooks, Johnson, Bedoya (Zusi 86), Bradley, Jones (Nagbe 66), Zardes, Dempsey, Wood (Pulisic 66).
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, C Zapata, Murillo, Diaz, Perez (Sanchez 86), Torres, Cuadrado, Rodriguez (Celis 73), Cardona, Bacca (D Moreno 88).

Jun 4 - Orlando
Costa Rica 0
Paraguay 0
Att: 14,334. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Gamboa, Waston, Acosta, Duarte, Matarrita, Campbell (Venegas 67), Borges, Tejeda (Azofeifa 59), Ruiz (Bolanos 78), Urena. *Sent off: Waston 90+4.*
Paraguay: Villar - B Valdez, Gomez, Da Silva, Samudio, Ortiz, R Piris, Gonzalez (Iturbe 89), Romero (E Benitez 70), Lezcano, J Benitez (Haedo Valdez 73).

Jun 7 - Chicago
United States 4 (Dempsey pen 9, Jones 37, Wood 42, Zusi 87)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 39,642. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)
United States: Guzan - Yedlin, Cameron, Brooks, Johnson, Bedoya (Beckerman 83), Bradley, Jones, Zardes, Dempsey (Wondolowski 78), Wood (Zusi 70).
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Gamboa (Salvatierra 46), Duarte, Acosta, Calvo, Matarrita, Campbell (Azofeifa 46), Bolanos, Borges, Ruiz, Urena (Saborio 18).

Jun 7 - Pasadena
Colombia 2 (Bacca 12, Rodriguez 30)
Paraguay 1 (Ayala 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 42,766. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, C Zapata (Mina 90), Murillo, Diaz, Perez (Celis 58), Torres, Cuadrado (M Moreno 87), Rodriguez, Cardona, Bacca.
Paraguay: Villar - B Valdez, Gomez, Da Silva, Samudio, R Piris (Ayala 46), Ortiz, Romero, Almiron, E Benitez (J Benitez 46), Lezcano (Sanabria 67). *Sent off: Romero 81.*

Jun11 - Philadelphia
United States 1 (Dempsey 27)
Paraguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,041. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
United States: Guzan - Yedlin, Cameron, Brooks, Johnson, Zardes, Bradley, Jones, Bedoya (Zusi 75), Dempsey (Orozco 50), Wood (Beckerman 83). *Sent off: Yedlin 48.*
Paraguay: Villar - Da Silva, Gomez, Balbuena (Iturbe 46), Samudio, Gonzalez, Ayala, Ortiz (Rojas 55), Almiron, Sanabria (J Benitez 63), Lezcano.

Jun11 - Houston
Colombia 2 (Fabra 6, M Moreno 73)
Costa Rica 3 (Venegas 2, Fabra og 34, Borges 58)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 45,808. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)
Colombia: R Zapata - Medina, Aguilar (Cuadrado 66), Mina, Fabra, Celis, Sanchez, Perez (Rodriguez 46), D Moreno (Cardona 46), Martinez, M Moreno.
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Salvatierra (Oviedo 46), Waston, Acosta, Calvo, Matarrita, Bolanos, Borges (Tejeda 78), Azofeifa, Ruiz (Campbell 79), Venegas.

COPA AMERICA – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA (Q)	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Colombia (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Costa Rica	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Paraguay	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Group B

Jun 4 - Seattle
Haiti 0
Peru 1 (Guerrero 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,190. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
Haiti: Placide - Goreux, Genevois, Jerome, Jaggy, Marcelin, Lafrance, Hilaire (Alexandre 40), Louis, Nazon (Belfort 71), Guerrier.
Peru: Gallese - Revoredo, Ramos, Rodriguez, Trauco, Tapia, Vilchez, Hohberg (Polo 83), Cueva (Yotun 75), Flores (Da Silva 90+1), Guerrero.

Jun 4 - Pasadena
Brazil 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 53,158. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Gil, Filipe Luis, Casemiro, Willian (Lucas Moura 76), Elias (Lucas Lima 86), Renato Augusto, Philippe Coutinho, Jonas (Gabriel 62).
Ecuador: Dreer - Paredes, Mina, Achilier, W Ayovi, Noboa, Gruezo, A Valencia, Bolanos (Gaibor 90+1), Montero (Martinez 81), E Valencia (J Ayovi 81).

Jun 8 - Orlando
Brazil 7 (Philippe Coutinho 14, 29, 90+2, Renato Augusto 35, 86, Gabriel 59, Lucas Lima 67)
Haiti 1 (Marcelin 70)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 28,241. **Ref:** Geiger (USA)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Gil, Filipe Luis, Casemiro (Lucas Lima 62), Willian, Elias (Walace 72), Renato Augusto, Philippe Coutinho, Jonas (Gabriel 46).
Haiti: Placide - Goreux, Genevois, Jerome, Jaggy, Alexandre (Hilaire 62), Alcenat (Maurice 83), Marcelin, Lafrance, Louis, Belfort (Nazon 50).

Jun 8 - Glendale
Ecuador 2 (E Valencia 39, Bolanos 48)
Peru 2 (Cueva 5, Flores 13)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 11,937. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes (J Ayovi 46), Mina, Achilier, W Ayovi, Gruezo, Noboa, A Valencia, Bolanos (Martinez 62), Montero (Cazares 88), E Valencia. *Sent off: Achilier 90+3.*
Peru: Gallese - Revoredo, Ramos, Rodriguez, Trauco, Vilchez (Ruidiaz 73), Tapia, Hohberg (Polo 50), Cueva, Flores (Yotun 79), Guerrero.

Jun12 - East Rutherford
Ecuador 4 (E Valencia 11, J Ayovi 20, Noboa 57, A Valencia 78)
Haiti 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,976. **Ref:** Vargas (Bol)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes, Mina, Erazo, W Ayovi, Noboa, Gruezo (Gaibor 79), A Valencia, Montero, E Valencia (Martinez 84), J Ayovi (Cazares 46).
Haiti: Placide - Lambese, Genevois, Jerome, Jaggy, Maurice, Lafrance (Hilaire 71), Marcelin (Alexandre 79), Norde, Nazon, Belfort (Louis 70).

Jun12 - Foxborough
Brazil 0
Peru 1 (Ruidiaz 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,187. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves, Gil, Miranda, Filipe Luis, Elias, Renato Augusto, Willian, Lucas Lima, Philippe Coutinho, Gabriel (Hulk 72).
Peru: Gallese - Corzo, Ramos, Rodriguez, Trauco, Vilchez, Balbin (Yotun 46), Polo, Cueva (Tapia 90+1), Flores (Ruidiaz 64), Guerrero.

COPA AMERICA – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Ecuador (Q)	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
Brazil	3	1	1	1	7	2	4
Haiti	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group C

Jun 5 - Chicago
Jamaica 0
Venezuela 1 (Martinez 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,560. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Jamaica: Blake - Watson (Binns 88), Mariappa, Taylor, Lawrence (Morgan 40), McCleary, Austin, Hector (Williamson 77), McAnuff, Barnes, Donaldson. *Sent off: Austin 24.*
Venezuela: Hernandez - Rosales, Angel, Vizcarrondo, Feltscher, Rincon, Figuera, Guerra (Gonzalez 90+1), Martinez (Penaranda 77), Seijas (Otero 86), Rondon.

Jun 5 - Glendale
Mexico 3 (A Pereira og 4, Marquez 85, Herrera 90+2)
Uruguay 1 (Godin 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,025. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)
Mexico: Talavera - Araujo, Marquez, Moreno, Layun, Reyes, J M Corona (Duenas 61), Herrera, Guardado, Aquino (Lozano 55), Hernandez (Jimenez 83). *Sent off: Guardado 73.*
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira, Sanchez (Ramirez 84), Vecino, Arevalo, Rolan (Hernandez 60), Lodeiro (Gonzalez 46), Cavani. *Sent off: Vecino 45.*

Jun 9 - Philadelphia
Uruguay 0
Venezuela 1 (Rondon 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,002. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, G Silva, Sanchez (Lodeiro 78), Arevalo, Gonzalez (Corujo 80), Ramirez (Rolan 73), Stuani, Cavani.
Venezuela: Hernandez - Rosales (Gonzalez 8), Angel, Vizcarrondo, Feltscher, Guerra, Rincon, Figuera (Otero 79), Penaranda, Rondon (Seijas 78), Martinez.

Jun 9 - Pasadena
Mexico 2 (Hernandez 18, Peralta 81)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 83,263. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)
Mexico: Ochoa - Duenas (Molina 72), Araujo, Y Corona, Moreno, Herrera, Marquez, Layun, Jimenez, Hernandez (Peralta 78), J M Corona (Lozano 63).
Jamaica: Blake - Mariappa, Morgan, Taylor, Watson, McCleary, Williamson (Orgill 77), Hector, McAnuff (Binns 62), Barnes, Donaldson.

Jun13 - Houston
Mexico 1 (J M Corona 80)
Venezuela 1 (Velazquez 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 67,319. **Ref:** Martinez (Cub)
Mexico: J J Corona - Aguilar, Reyes, Moreno, Torres Nilo (Layun 46), Molina (Hernandez 68), Lozano, Herrera, Guardado, Aquino (J M Corona 18), Peralta.
Venezuela: Hernandez - Gonzalez, Angel, Velazquez, Feltscher, Guerra (Otero 83), Rincon, Seijas, Penaranda, Santos (Rondon 78), Del Valle (Martinez 65).

Jun13 - Santa Clara
Uruguay 3 (Hernandez 21, Watson og 66, Corujo 88)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,166. **Ref:** Lamouroux (Col)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, G Silva, Sanchez (Vecino 66), Arevalo, Gonzalez (Corujo 81), Lodeiro, Hernandez (Ramirez 74), Cavani.
Jamaica: Blake - Mariappa, Morgan, Taylor, Watson, McCleary (Orgill 73), Williamson (Austin 69), Hector, McAnuff (Binns 80), Donaldson, Barnes.

COPA AMERICA – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico (Q)	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Venezuela (Q)	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Uruguay	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

Group D

Jun 6 - Orlando
Panama 2 (Perez 11, 87)
Bolivia 1 (Arce 54)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,466. **Ref:** Montero (CR)
Panama: Penedo - Machado, Baloy, Cummings (L Henriquez 63), Miller, Cooper (Arroyo 74), G Gomez, Godoy, Quintero, Torres (Tejada 56), Perez.
Bolivia: Lampe - Eguino (Melean 46), Zenteno, Cabrera, D Bejarano, Azogue, Saucedo (Campos 46), M Bejarano, Smedberg-Dalence, Arce, Duk (Ramallo 87).

Jun 6 - Santa Clara
Argentina 2 (Di Maria 51, Banega 59)
Chile 1 (Fuenzalida 90+3)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 69,451. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)
Argentina: Romero - Mercado, Otamendi, Funes Mori, Rojo, Fernandez, Mascherano, Gaitan (Kranevitter 87), Banega, Di Maria (Lamela 80), Higuain (Aguero 74).
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Jara, Mena (Orellana 54), Aranguiz (Fuenzalida 82), Diaz, Vidal, Vargas (Pinilla 68), Sanchez, Beausejour.

Jun10 - Foxborough
Chile 2 (Vidal 46, pen 90+10)
Bolivia 1 (Campos 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,392. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Chile: Bravo - Isla (Fuenzalida 76), Medel, Jara, Beausejour, Vidal, Hernandez, Aranguiz, Sanchez, Pinilla (Vargas 58), Orellana (Puch 68).
Bolivia: Lampe - Saavedra, Eguino, Zenteno, Gutierrez, M Bejarano, Arce (Ramallo 54), Melean, Castro (Campos 58), Smedberg-Dalence, Duk (Veizaga 82).

Jun10 - Chicago
Argentina 5 (Otamendi 7, Messi 68, 78, 87, Aguero 90)
Panama 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 53,885. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Argentina: Romero - Mercado, Otamendi, Funes Mori, Rojo, Fernandez (Messi 61), Mascherano, Gaitan, Banega, Di Maria (Lamela 43), Higuain (Aguero 76).
Panama: Penedo - Machado, Baloy, Miller, L Henriquez, G Gomez, Cooper (Arroyo 76), Pimentel (Camargo 20), Godoy, Quintero, Perez (Tejada 75). *Sent off: Godoy 31.*

Jun14 - Philadelphia
Chile 4 (Vargas 15, 43, Sanchez 50, 89)
Panama 2 (Camargo 5, Arroyo 75)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 27,260. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel (Roco 90), Jara, Beausejour (Puch 60), Vidal (Hernandez 90), Diaz, Aranguiz, Fuenzalida, Vargas, Sanchez.
Panama: Penedo - Machado, Cummings, Miller, L Henriquez, Camargo, G Gomez, A Henriquez, Quintero (Buitrago 71), Nurse (Arroyo 46), Tejada (Torres 46).

Jun14 - Seattle
Argentina 3 (Lamela 13, Lavezzi 15, Cuesta 32)
Bolivia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 45,753. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Argentina: Romero - Roncaglia, Otamendi (Maidana 75), Cuesta, Funes Mori, Banega (Biglia 46), Kranevitter, Lavezzi, Lamela, Aguero, Higuain (Messi 46).
Bolivia: Lampe - Saavedra, Melean, Zenteno, Cabrera, Gutierrez, Arce (Machado 46), Smedberg-Dalence (Algaranaz 85), Azogue, Campos, Duk (D Bejarano 24).

COPA AMERICA – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina (Q)	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Chile (Q)	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Panama	3	1	0	2	4	10	3
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

● *The top 2 in each group qualified for the quarter-finals*

Quarter-finals

Jun16 - Seattle
United States 2 (Dempsey 22, Zardes 65)
Ecuador 1 (Arroyo 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,322. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
United States: Guzan - Johnson, Cameron, Brooks, Besler, Zardes (Birnbaum 90+4), Jones, Bradley, Bedoya (Zusi 81), Dempsey (Beckerman 74), Wood. *Sent off: Jones 52.*
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes (J Ayovi 82), Mina, Erazo, W Ayovi, Noboa (Gaibor 62), Gruezo (Ramirez 72), A Valencia, Arroyo, Montero, E Valencia. *Sent off: A Valencia 52.*

Jun17 - East Rutherford
Peru 0
Colombia 0
Colombia 4-2 on pens
Att: 79,194. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Peru: Gallese - Corzo, Ramos, Rodriguez, Trauco, Tapia, Vilchez, Polo (Benavente 81), Cueva, Flores (Ruidiaz 77), Guerrero.
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, C Zapata, Murillo, Diaz (Fabra 90+1), Sanchez, Torres (Perez 80), Cuadrado, Cardona (D Moreno 76), Rodriguez, Bacca.

Jun18 - Foxborough
Argentina 4 (Higuain 8, 28, Messi 60, Lamela 71)
Venezuela 1 (Rondon 70)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 59,183. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)
Argentina: Romero - Mercado, Otamendi, Funes Mori, Rojo, Fernandez, Mascherano, Banega (Biglia 80), Messi, Higuain (Aguero 74), Gaitan (Lamela 67).
Venezuela: Hernandez - Gonzalez, Angel, Vizcarrondo, Feltscher, Guerra, Rincon (Velazquez 85), Figuera, Seijas (Anor 55), Rondon, Martinez (Del Valle 80).

Jun18 - Santa Clara
Mexico 0
Chile 7 (Puch 16, 87, Vargas 44, 52, 57, 74, Sanchez 49)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 70,547. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)

Mexico: Ochoa - Aguilar, Araujo, Moreno, Layun, Duenas (Pena 46), Guardado, Lozano (Jimenez 46), Herrera, J M Corona (Reyes 60), Hernandez.
Chile: Bravo - Fuenzalida, Medel (Roco 60), Jara, Beausejour (Gonzalez 73), Aranguiz, Diaz (Silva 57), Vidal, Puch, Vargas, Sanchez.

Semi-finals

Jun 21 - Houston
United States 0
Argentina 4 (Lavezzi 3, Messi 32, Higuain 50, 86)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 70,858. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)
United States: Guzan - Yedlin, Cameron, Brooks, Johnson, Zardes, Bradley, Beckerman (Birnbaum 60), Zusi, Wondolowski (Pulisic 46), Dempsey (Nagbe 78).
Argentina: Romero - Mercado, Otamendi, Funes Mori, Rojo (Cuesta 84), Fernandez (Biglia 59), Mascherano, Banega, Messi, Higuain, Lavezzi (Lamela 67).

Jun 22 - Chicago
Colombia 0
Chile 2 (Aranguiz 7, Fuenzalida 11)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 55,423. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, C Zapata, Murillo, Fabra (Perez 73), Torres, Sanchez, Cuadrado (Bacca 80), Cardona (M Moreno 46), Rodriguez, Martinez. *Sent off: Sanchez 57.*
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Jara, Beausejour, Aranguiz, Silva, Hernandez (Pulgar 30), Fuenzalida (Puch 75), Vargas (Gonzalez 88), Sanchez.

3rd-place match

Jun 25 - Glendale
United States 0
Colombia 1 (Bacca 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,041. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)
United States: Howard - Yedlin, Cameron, Besler, Orozco, Zardes, Bradley (Nagbe 79), Jones, Bedoya (Pulisic 74), Dempsey, Wood. *Sent off: Orozco 90+3.*
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, C Zapata, Murillo, Fabra, Celis (Medina 87), Torres, Cuadrado (M Moreno 74), Rodriguez, Cardona, Bacca (Martinez 79). *Sent off: Arias 90+4.*

Final

Jun 26 - East Rutherford
Argentina 0
Chile 0
Aet. Chile 4-2 on pens
Att: 82,026. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)
Argentina: Romero - Mercado, Otamendi, Funes Mori, Rojo, Biglia, Mascherano, Banega (Lamela 111), Messi, Higuain (Aguero 70), Di Maria (Kranevitter 57). *Sent off: Rojo 43.*
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Jara, Beausejour, Vidal, Diaz, Aranguiz, Fuenzalida (Puch 80), Vargas (Castillo 109), Sanchez (Silva 104). *Sent off: Diaz 28.*
Penalty shoot-out (Chile 1st)

Vidal (saved)	*0-0*	*Messi (missed)*	*0-0;*
Castillo (scored)	*1-0*	*Mascherano (scored)*	*1-1;*
Aranguiz (scored)	*2-1*	*Aguero (scored)*	*2-2;*
Beausejour (scored)	*3-2*	*Biglia (saved)*	*3-2;*
Silva (scored)	*4-2*		

2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

OCEANIA section

2nd round

Played in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; May 28-Jun 5

Group A

Papua New Guinea 1 (Semmy 41)
New Caledonia 1 (Saiko 84)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Conger (NZ)
Sent off: Semmy (Papua New Guinea) 79

Tahiti 4 (T Tehau 2, 5, Chong Hue 15, A Tehau 39)
Samoa 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Behari (Fij)

Papua New Guinea 2 (Gunemba 45+1, 64)
Tahiti 2 (A Tehau 66, T Tehau 76)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Waldron (NZ)
Sent off: Vallar (Tahiti) 51

New Caledonia 7 (R Kayara 18, 30, Nemia 28, Zeoula pen 38, Wadriako 53, Cexome 79, Dahite pen 89)
Samoa 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Banga (Van)

Papua New Guinea 8 (Foster 13, 51, Gunemba 33, 63, 85, Dabingyaba 58, 74, Upaiga 67)
Samoa 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hopkken (Van)
Sent off: Kapisi (Samoa) 87

Tahiti 1 (T Tehau 90+2)
New Caledonia 1 (Kai 80)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Waldron (NZ)

WC QUALS – OCEANIA – 2ND RND: GP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Papua NG (Q)	3	1	2	0	11	3	5
N Caledonia (Q)	3	1	2	0	9	2	5
Tahiti (Q)	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
Samoa	3	0	0	3	0	19	0

Group B

New Zealand 3 (Tzimopoulos 16, Fallon 41, Wood pen 61)
Fiji 1 (R Krishna pen 45+2)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Hauata (Tah)

Vanuatu 0
Solomon Islands 1 (Donga 19)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Lacour (NC)

Vanuatu 0
New Zealand 5 (Wood 4, 5, McGlinchey 10, Fallon 19, Barbarouses 45)
HT: 0-5. **Ref:** Amos (PNG)

Solomon Islands 0
Fiji 1 (R Krishna pen 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Zitouni (Tah)

Fiji 2 (Kautoga 51, R Krishna 69)
Vanuatu 3 (Fred 19, Masauvakalo 41, B Kaltack pen 75)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Zitouni (Tah)

New Zealand 1 (Adams 80)
Solomon Islands 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Hauata (Tah)

WC QUALS – OCEANIA – 2ND RND: GP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Zealand (Q)	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Solomon Is (Q)	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Fiji (Q)	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Vanuatu	3	1	0	2	3	8	3

● *Top 3 in both groups have qualified for 3rd rnd*

● *This stage doubled as the group stage of the Oceania Nations Cup, with the top 2 in both groups qualifying for the semi-finals (see below)*

OCEANIA NATIONS CUP

● *See 2018 World Cup Qualifiers section for group stage results*

Played in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; Jun 8-11

Semi-finals

New Zealand 1 (Wood 49)
New Caledonia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,379. **Ref:** Zitouni (Tah)

Papua New Guinea 2 (Foster 38, Dabingyaba 82)
Solomon Islands 1 (Molea 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,548. **Ref:** Conger (NZ)

Final

New Zealand 0
Papua New Guinea 0
Aet. New Zealand 4-2 on pens
Att: 13,000. **Ref:** Hauata (Tah)
New Zealand: Marinovic - Colvey, Boxall, Tuiloma (Dyer 72), Barbarouses (Brockie 55), McGlinchey, Patterson (Rojas 53), Fallon, Fenton, Adams, Brotherton.
Papua New Guinea: Warisan - Joe, A Komolong, F Komolong, Upaiga, Gunemba, Foster, Dabingyaba, Muta, Simon (Sabua 115), Semmy.

2017 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Group A

Jun 3 - Djibouti
Djibouti 0
Tunisia 3 (Sliti 15, Harbaoui 44, Khenissi 60)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Nkurunziza (Bdi)

Jun 5 - Monrovia
Liberia 2 (Dorbor 8, Jebor 54)
Togo 2 (F Ayite 67, Laba 83)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Grisha (Egy)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liberia	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
Tunisia	5	3	1	1	12	2	10
Togo	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Djibouti	5	0	0	5	1	19	0

Group B

Jun 5 - Bangui
Central African Republic 3 (Mabide 15, Enza-Yamissi 38, Limane 77)
Angola 1 (Pana 86)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Keita (Gui)

Jun 5 - Analamanga
Madagascar 1 (Rakotonomenjanahary 86)
DR Congo 6 (Bakambu 2, 82, M'Poku 21, 65, Bolasie 41, Botaka 90+1)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Omweno (Ken)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DR Congo	5	4	0	1	12	5	12
Cent Af Rep	5	3	1	1	8	7	10
Angola	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
Madagascar	5	0	2	3	4	11	2

Group C

Jun 4 - Juba
South Sudan 0
Mali 3 (Diaby 35, M Maiga 47, Doumbia 58)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Aden (Dji)

Jun12 - Cotonou
Benin 2 (Adenon 24, Djigla 59)
Equatorial Guinea 1 (Essono 54)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gassama (Gam)
Sent off: Edu (Equatorial Guinea) 64

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mali (Q)	5	4	1	0	8	1	13
Benin	5	3	2	0	10	5	11
South Sudan	5	1	0	4	3	11	3
Equat Guinea	5	0	1	4	2	6	1

Group D

Jun 4 - Francistown
Botswana 1 (Makgantai 50)
Uganda 2 (Kizito 9, Aucho 53)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)

Jun 5 - Moroni
Comoros 0
Burkina Faso 1 (Alain Traore 80)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Hakizimana (Rwa)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	5	3	1	1	4	1	10
Uganda	5	3	1	1	5	2	10
Botswana	5	2	0	3	4	6	6
Comoros	5	1	0	4	2	6	3

Group E

Jun 4 - Bissau
Guinea-Bissau 3 (Zezinho pen 14, Mendy 36, Brito 90+6)
Zambia 2 (Mbesuma 26, C Katongo 52)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Charef (Alg)

Jun 5 - Nairobi
Kenya 2 (Masika 24, Johannah 65)
Congo 1 (Oniangue pen 18)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Lamptey (Gha)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
G-Bissau (Q)	5	3	1	1	7	6	10
Congo	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
Zambia	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Kenya	5	1	1	3	4	6	4

Group F

Jun 3 - Rades, Tunisia
Libya 1 (Al Ouarfali 90)
Morocco 1 (Dirar 36)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Essrayri (Tun)

Jun 4 - Sao Tome
Sao Tome e Principe 1 (Faduley 87)
Cape Verde Islands 2 (Ricardo Gomes 50, Nuno Joia 79)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Diedhiou (Sen)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco (Q)	5	4	1	0	8	1	13
Cape Verde	5	3	0	2	11	6	9
Libya	5	1	1	3	7	6	4
Sao Tome e P	5	1	0	4	4	17	3

Group G

Jun 4 - Dar es Salaam
Tanzania 0
Egypt 2 (M Salah 44, 58)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Otogo-Castane (Gab)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt (Q)	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Nigeria	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Tanzania	3	0	1	2	0	5	1

Group H

Jun 4 - Kigali
Rwanda 2 (Tuyisenge 36, 77)
Mozambique 3 (Domingues 9, 79, Sonito 44)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Bondo (Bot)

Jun 5 - Belle Vue Maurel
Mauritius 0
Ghana 2 (A Ayew 71, Atsu 74)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tessema Weyesa (Eth)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana (Q)	5	4	1	0	13	2	13
Rwanda	5	2	0	3	8	5	6
Mauritius	5	2	0	3	3	14	6
Mozambique	5	1	1	3	4	7	4

Group I

Jun 4 - Freetown
Sierra Leone 1 (S Fofana 65)
Sudan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Alioum (Cam)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Sierra Leone	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Sudan	4	1	1	2	2	3	4

Group J

Jun 2 - Victoria
Seychelles 0
Algeria 2 (Benzia 40, Soudani 62)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mohamed (Sud)

Jun 5 - Maseru
Lesotho 1 (Jane 59)
Ethiopia 2 (Getaneh 30, 54)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Nunkoo (Mrs)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria (Q)	5	4	1	0	19	5	13
Ethiopia	5	2	2	1	9	13	8
Seychelles	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
Lesotho	5	1	0	4	5	10	3

Group K

Jun 4 - Bujumbura
Burundi 0
Senegal 2 (S Mane 16, M B Diouf 42)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)

Jun 4 - Windhoek
Namibia 1 (Shalulile 25)
Niger 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Martins de Carvalho (Ang)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP K

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal (Q)	5	5	0	0	11	2	15
Burundi	5	2	0	3	7	9	6
Namibia	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
Niger	5	1	0	4	2	7	3

Group L

Jun 5 - Lobamba
Swaziland 1 (Ndzinisa 46)
Guinea 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)

Jun 5 - Harare
Zimbabwe 3 (Musona pen 16, Billiat 36, Malajila 86)
Malawi 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Zio (BuF)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP L

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe (Q)	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
Swaziland	5	2	2	1	6	8	8
Guinea	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Malawi	5	0	2	3	4	9	2

Group M

Jun 3 - Nouakchott
Mauritania 0
Cameroon 1 (Salli 29)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Nampiandraza (Mad)

Jun 4 - Bakau
Gambia 0
South Africa 4 (Gabuza 31, 40, Dolly 55, 79)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Dembele (IvC)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP M	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon (Q)	5	3	2	0	5	2	11
Mauritania	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
South Africa	5	1	3	1	7	5	6
Gambia	5	0	2	3	1	7	2

● *Group winners and the 2 runners-up with best record (excluding 3-team groups) qualify for the 16-team finals. Hosts Gabon qualify automatically*

2019 AFC CUP QUALIFIERS

1st play-off round

1st legs - Jun 2; 2nd legs - Jun 6/7
Laos v India 0-1, 1-6 (agg 1-7)
Malaysia v East Timor 3-0, 3-0 (agg 6-0)
Maldives v Yemen 0-2, 0-2 (agg 0-4)
Taiwan v Cambodia 2-2, 0-2 (agg 2-4)
Tajikistan v Bangladesh 5-0, 1-0 (agg 6-0)
● *Winners enter the final qualifying stage; losers enter 2nd play-off round*

COSAFA CUP

Played in Windhoek, Namibia

Group A
Jun 11: Zimbabwe 2 Swaziland 2; Seychelles 0 Madagascar 1.
Jun 13: Swaziland 4 Seychelles 0; Madagascar 0 Zimbabwe 0.
Jun 15: Zimbabwe 5 Seychelles 0; Swaziland 1 Madagascar 0.

COSAFA CUP – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swaziland (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Zimbabwe	3	1	2	0	7	2	5
Madagascar	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Seychelles	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

Group B
Jun 12: Lesotho 3 Mauritius 0; Malawi 3 Angola 0.
Jun 14: Angola 0 Lesotho 2; Mauritius 0 Malawi 1.
Jun 16: Angola 0 Mauritius 2; Malawi 0 Lesotho 1.

COSAFA CUP – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lesotho (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Malawi	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Mauritius	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Angola	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

● *Group winners qualified for quarter-finals, to which Botswana, DR Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia received byes*

Quarter-finals

Jun 18: South Africa 1 Lesotho 1 (South Africa 4-2 on pens); Botswana 1 Namibia 1 (Botswana 5-4 on pens).
Jun 19: Zambia 0 Swaziland 0 (Swaziland 4-2 on pens); DR Congo 1 Mozambique 0.
● *Losers entered plate tournament (see below)*

Semi-finals

Jun 22: South Africa 5 Swaziland 1; Botswana 0 DR Congo 0 (Botswana 5-4 on pens).

3rd-place match

Jun 25: Swaziland 1 DR Congo 0.

Final

Jun 25
South Africa 3 (Motupa pen 33, pen 88, Kutumela 66)
Botswana 2 (Makgantai 16, Seakanyeng 70)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)

PLATE TOURNAMENT *(for quarter-finals losers)*
Semi-finals
Jun 21: Lesotho 2 Zambia 3; Namibia 3 Mozambique 0.
Final
Jun 24: Zambia 0 Namibia 1.

2017 CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS

2nd round

Group 1
Jun 1: Grenada 3 Puerto Rico 3 (aet, Puerto Rico 4-3 on pens)[1].
Jun 4: Puerto Rico 2 Antigua & Barbuda 1 (aet)[1].
Jun 7: Antigua & Barbuda 5 Grenada 1.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GP 1 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puerto Rico (Q)	2	2	0	0	5	4	6
Antigua & B (Q)	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Grenada	2	0	0	2	4	8	0

Group 2
Jun 1: Martinique 2 Guadeloupe 0.
Jun 4: Guadeloupe 2 Dominica 1.
Jun 7: Dominica 0 Martinique 4.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GP 2 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Martinique (Q)	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Guadeloupe	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Dominica	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group 3
Jun 1: Guyana 2 Curacao 5.
Jun 4: US Virgin Islands 0 Guyana 7.
Jun 7: Curacao 7 US Virgin Islands 0.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GP 3 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curacao (Q)	2	2	0	0	12	2	6
Guyana (Q)	2	1	0	1	9	5	3
US Virgin Is	2	0	0	2	0	14	0

Group 4
Jun 4: Bermuda 0 Dominican Republic 1.
Jun 7: Dominican Republic 2 French Guiana 1.
Jun 19: French Guiana 3 Bermuda 0.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GP 4 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dom Rep (Q)	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Fr Guiana (Q)	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Bermuda	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group 5
Jun 1: St Kitts & Nevis 1 Surinam 0.
Jun 4: Surinam 2 St Vincent & Grenadines 1.
Jun 7: St Vincent & Grenadines 0 St Kitts & Nevis 1.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GP 5 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Kitts & N (Q)	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Surinam (Q)	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
St Vincent & G	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

[1] *Games tied at 90 minutes went to extra-time/penalties as no draws allowed*

● *Group winners and the 4 runners-up with the best records have qualified for the 3rd round*

BALTIC CUP

May 29 - Klaipeda
Lithuania 2 (Valskis 30, Cernych 45)
Estonia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,700. **Ref:** Anufrijevs (Lat)

Jun1 - Liepaja
Latvia 2 (Zjuzins 50, Rudnevs 71)
Lithuania 1 (Cernych 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,305. **Ref:** Tarajev (Est)

Jun 4 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Latvia 0
Att: 1,982. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)

BALTIC CUP – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Latvia (C)	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Lithuania	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Estonia	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

KIRIN CUP

Played in Japan

Semi-finals

Jun 3 - Toyota
Denmark 2 (Kjaer 22, Fischer 41)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Djuric 52, 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 14,001. **Ref:** Williams (Aus)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 4-3 on pens
Sent off: O Vranjes (Bosnia-Herzegovina) 70

Jun 3 - Toyota
Japan 7 (Okazaki 4, Kagawa 27, 35, Yoshida 38, 53, Usami 57, Asano pen 87)
Bulgaria 2 (M Aleksandrov 59, Chochev 82)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 41,490. **Ref:** Frankowski (Pol)

3rd-place match

Jun 7 - Osaka
Denmark 4 (M Rasmussen 39, Eriksen 72, 74, 82)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,226. **Ref:** Sato (Jap)

Final

Jun 7 - Osaka
Japan 1 (Kiyotake 28)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Djuric 29, 66)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,589. **Ref:** Gillett (Aus)

KING'S CUP

Played in Bangkok, Thailand

Semi-finals

Jun 3: United Arab Emirates 1 Jordan 3; Thailand 2 Syria 2 (Thailand 7-6 on pens).

3rd-place match

Jun 5: United Arab Emirates 0 Syria 1.

Final

Jun 5
Jordan 0
Thailand 2 (Kroekrit 51, 80)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nafeez (Mly)

AYA BANK CUP

Played in Yangon, Myanmar

Semi-finals

Jun 3: Vietnam 2 Hong Kong 2 (Vietnam 4-3 on pens); Myanmar 0 Singapore 1.

3rd-place match

Jun 6: Myanmar 3 Hong Kong 0.

Final

Jun 6
Vietnam 3 (Le Cong Vinh 91, Nguyen Van Quyet 99, Dinh Thanh Trung 114)
Singapore 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0

FRIENDLIES

Wednesday, April 27
Apr 27 - Fort-de-France
Martinique 0
Panama 2 (M Murillo 46, Batista 62)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Yorke (T&T)

Friday, May 20
May 20 - Budapest
Hungary 0
Ivory Coast 0
Att: 19,900. **Ref:** Glodjovic (Ser)
Hungary: Kiraly (Gulacsi 46) - Fiola, Juhasz, Lang, Kadar, Nagy (Bode 70), Pinter, Kleinheisler (Gera 46), Gyurcso (Nikolic 64), Szalai (Sallai 79), Dzsudzsak (Vida 89).

Saturday, May 21
May 21 - Serowe
Botswana 2 (Makgantai 68, 87)
Lesotho 1 (Makepe 5)
HT: 0-1

Sunday, May 22
May 22 - Manchester
England 2 (Kane 3, Vardy 83)
Turkey 1 (Calhanoglu 13)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 44,866. **Ref:** Aytekin (Ger)
England: Hart - Walker, Cahill, Stones, Rose, Dier, Wilshere (Henderson 65), Alli, Sterling (Drinkwater 73), Vardy, Kane.
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Gokhan Gonul, Hakan Balta, Mehmet Topal, Caner (Ismail 70), Selcuk Inan, Volkan Sen (Oztekin 83), Ozyakup (Mahmut 70), Ozan (Erdinc 87), Calhanoglu (Sahan 78), Tosun.

May 22 - Bayamon
Puerto Rico 1 (Betancur 42)
United States 3 (Ream 20, Wood 34, Arriola 56)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Ward (SKN)
United States: Guzan (Howard 46) - Yedlin, Orozco, Brooks (Miazga 46), Ream (Green 63), Kitchen (Hyndman 46), Williams, Bedoya (Lichaj 63), Morales, Wood (Picault 71), Arriola.

Monday, May 23
May 23 - Lima
Peru 4 (Cueva 35, Da Silva 38, Flores 50, Benavente pen 90+3)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Sanchez (Col)
Sent off: Abu Bakr (Trinidad & Tobago) 90+2

Tuesday, May 24
May 24 - Panama City
Panama 0
Venezuela 0
Att: 12,700. **Ref:** Legister (Jam)

Wednesday, May 25
May 25 - Como, Italy
Romania 1 (Stanciu 27)
DR Congo 1 (Bokila 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Valeri (Ita)
Romania: Pantilimon - Sapunaru, Gaman, Chiriches, Rat (Tosca 89), Ropotan (Prepelita 46), Pintilii, Popa (Torje 59), Stanciu (Keseru 78), Chipciu (Maxim 59), Alibec (Hora 68).

May 25 - Uzice
Serbia 2 (A Mitrovic 2, Tadic 10)
Cyprus 1 (Nikola Maksimovic og 32)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Radovanovic (Mne)

May 25 - Frisco
United States 1 (Nagbe 90)
Ecuador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,893. **Ref:** Penaloza (Mex)
United States: Guzan - Yedlin, Birnbaum, Brooks (Besler 78), F Johnson, Beckerman (Nagbe 46), Zusi (Orozco 87), Jones (Bedoya 64), Bradley, Zardes (Wood 46), Dempsey (Pulisic 63).
Ecuador: Dominguez (Dreer 46) - Paredes, Erazo, Achilier (Arboleda 73), Ramirez, Noboa (Gaibor 69), Gruezo (Larrea 59), Mena, Montero (Arroyo 64), E Valencia, M Bolanos (Cazares 68).

Thursday, May 26
May 26 - Bad Erlach, Austria
Azerbaijan 0
Andorra 0

Friday, May 27
May 27 - San Juan
Argentina 1 (Higuain 31)
Honduras 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Osorio (Chl)
Argentina: Romero - Mercado (Roncaglia 77), Otamendi (Maidana 77), Funes Mori, Rojo (Cuesta 77), Biglia, Mascherano, Lamela (Gaitan 64), Messi (Banega 64), Higuain (Aguero 65), Di Maria.

May 27 - Vina del Mar
Chile 1 (Castillo 82)
Jamaica 2 (Donaldson 36, Grant 53)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Orozco (Bol)
Chile: Herrera - G Jara, G Medel, Isla, Beausejour (Fuenzalida 64), Silva, Aranguiz, Orellana (Puch 64), Vargas (Fernandez 46), Pinilla (Castillo 70), Sanchez.
Jamaica: Thompson (Kerr 46) - Watson, Mariappa, J Taylor, Lawrence, McCleary, Hector (McAnuff 46), Williamson (Vanzie 82), Donaldson (Ottey 64), Barnes (Binns 87), Orgill (Grant 46).

May 27 - San Jose
Costa Rica 2 (Gamboa 41, Rodriguez 50)
Venezuela 1 (S Rondon 30)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Matamoros (Hnd)
Costa Rica: Pemberton (Moreira 46) - Acosta (Umana 74), Waston, Duarte (Calvo 58), Matarrita, Gamboa, Borges (Tejeda 64), Ruiz, Bolanos (Venegas 61), Campbell, Saborio (Rodriguez 46).
Venezuela: Contreras - A Gonzalez (Garcia 53), Angel, Vizcarrondo (Velazquez 77), R Feltscher (Villanueva 77), Anor, Rincon, Figuera (Santos 74), Otero (Guerra 60), S Rondon, Martinez.

May 27 - Koprivnica
Croatia 1 (Kramaric 9)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,974. **Ref:** Valjic (Bos)
Croatia: Subasic - Strinic, Corluka, Vida (Schildenfeld 46), Vrsaljko, Badelj (Antolic 46), Brozovic (Coric 46), Pjaca (Halilovic 46), Kramaric (Rog 46), Perisic (Cop 46), N Kalinic.
Moldova: Cebanu - Epureanu, Golovatenco, Cebotaru (Ambros 87), Jardan, Cascaval, Carp (Sidorenco 60), Ionita (Mihailov 75), V Andronic (Cojocari 60), Spataru (Ivanov 77), Bugneac (Milinceanu 53).

May 27 - Kufstein, Austria
Czech Republic 6 (Plasil 15, Skoda 22, Hubnik 40, Lafata 74, Necid 81, Schick 90)
Malta 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Ouschan (Aut)
Czech Republic: Cech (Koubek 46) - Hubnik, Kaderabek (Schick 65), Limbersky (Gebre Selassie 46), Sivok, Krejci (Darida 46), Pavelka (Kolar 65), Plasil (Skalak 46), Rosicky (Marecek 65), Sural (Lafata 46), Skoda (Necid 46).

May 27 - Sunderland
England 2 (Rashford 3, Rooney 55)
Australia 1 (Dier og 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 46,595. **Ref:** Makkelie (Hol)
England: Forster (Heaton 87) - Clyne, Smalling (Dier 73), Stones, Bertrand, Wilshere (Milner 46), Henderson, Drinkwater, Lallana (Rooney 46), Sterling (Townsend 76), Rashford (Barkley 63).
Australia: Ryan - Risdon (Degenek 74), Milligan, Wright, Smith, Jedinak, Luongo (Ikonomidis 58), Mooy (Irvine 84), Rogic (Juric 73), Kruse (Goodwin 84), Maclaren (McKay 58).

May 27 - Tangiers
Morocco 2 (Ziyech 4, pen 55)
Congo 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sy (Sen)

May 27 - Rouen, France
Nigeria 1 (Iheanacho 77)
Mali 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Buquet (Fra)

May 27 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 3 (K Lafferty 6, Washington 44, Grigg 88)
Belarus 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 14,229. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Northern Ireland: Carroll (Mannus 46) - C McLaughlin, Baird, J Evans, Cathcart, Dallas (McGinn 73), McNair, Davis (Norwood 46), C Evans (Hughes 73), K Lafferty (Grigg 61), Washington (Ward 61).

May 27 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 1 (Long 30)
Holland 1 (L De Jong 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,438. **Ref:** Dias (Por)
Rep Ireland: Randolph - Coleman, O'Shea, Duffy, Brady, Arter (O'Kane 83), Whelan (Gibson 67), Quinn (Hendrick 67), McGoldrick (Hoolahan 76), Walters, Long (McClean 67).
Holland: Cillessen - Veltman, Bruma, Van Dijk, Willems, Strootman (Van Ginkel 70), Wijnaldum (L De Jong 82), Bazoer, Promes, Depay (Berghuis 61), Janssen (Dost 75).

May 27 - Wels, Austria
Slovakia 3 (Nemec 5, 56, Zrel'ak 70)
Georgia 1 (Kenia 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 782. **Ref:** Drachta (Aut)
Slovakia: Mucha (Novota 62) - Gyomber, Salata, Skriniar, Tesak, Pecovsky, Gregus (Svento 86), Sabo (Sestak 66), Bero (Hrosovsky 79), Zrel'ak, Nemec (Duris 70).

May 27 - Lome
Togo 1 (Dossevi 20)
Zambia 0
HT: 1-0

May 27 - Montevideo
Uruguay 3 (Cavani pen 26, 39, Vecino 51)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Jomal Williams 6)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Vigliano (Arg)
Uruguay: M Silva (Campana 80) - M Pereira (Fucile 70), Victorino, G Silva, A Pereira, Sanchez (Ramirez 46), Arevalo (A Gonzalez 59), Vecino, Lodeiro (Corujo 46), Rolan, Cavani (Stuani 46).

Saturday, May 28

May 28 - Barcelona, Spain
Gabon 0
Mauritania 2 (Diakite 49, Beguily 90)
HT: 0-0

May 28 - Carson, USA
Guatemala 1 (C Ruiz 7)
Armenia 7 (Mkhitaryan 39, 60, 70, Manucharyan 45, Sarkisov 72, Kadimyan 50, Badoyan 84)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Bejarano (CR)

May 28 - Atlanta, USA
Mexico 1 (Guardado 31)
Paraguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 63,049. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)
Mexico: Ochoa - Araujo, Moreno (Y Corona 56), Marquez, Aquino, Guardado (Aguilar 56), Duenas (Torres Nilo 61), Pena, Molina, Damm (Reyes 61), J Hernandez (Peralta 56).
Paraguay: Villar (A Silva 46) - Balbuena, B Valdez (I Piris 55), B Riveros, Da Silva, Romero (Iturbe 80), C Ortiz, Gonzalez (Rojas 69), R Piris, Sanabria (Lezcano 57), Jorge Benitez (Haedo Valdez 65).

May 28 - Yangon
Myanmar 0
Malaysia 0

May 28 - Washington DC, USA
Peru 3 (Ruidiaz 11, Polo 59, Yotun 90+3)
El Salvador 1 (N Bonilla 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Legister (Jam)

May 28 - Kigali
Rwanda 0
Senegal 2 (M B Diouf 15, Sanghare 32)
HT: 0-2

May 28 - Geneva
Switzerland 1 (Dzemaili 32)
Belgium 2 (R Lukaku 34, De Bruyne 83)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Mazzoleni (Ita)
Switzerland: Sommer - Lang (Widmer 64), Senderos (Elvedi 64), Djourou (Fernandes 84), Rodriguez, Xhaka, Behrami, Shaqiri, Mehmedi (Tarashaj 64), Dzemaili (Zakaria 78), Derdiyok (Seferovic 40). *Sent off: Seferovic 81.*
Belgium: Courtois - Witsel, Alderweireld, Vermaelen (J Lukaku 68), Vertonghen, Dembele (Ciman 55), Fellaini (Benteke 85), De Bruyne, E Hazard, Mertens (Origi 67), R Lukaku (Batshuayi 58).

May 28 - Kansas City
United States 4 (Zardes 26, 52, Brooks 37, Pulisic 69)
Bolivia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,894. **Ref:** Bonilla (ESv)
United States: Guzan - Orozco (Yedlin 46), Cameron, Brooks, Besler (F Johnson 46), Bedoya (Nagbe 63), Bradley (Zusi 73), Jones, Zardes (Pulisic 63), Dempsey (Wondolowski 72), Wood.
Bolivia: Vizcarra - Diego Bejarano, Eguino, Cabrera, Gutierrez (M Bejarano 68), Melean (Ramallo 54), Smedberg-Dalence (Zenteno 74), Saucedo (Azogue 46), Campos (Miranda 46), Duk, Algaranaz (Castro 46).

Sunday, May 29

May 29 - Hartberg, Austria
Albania 3 (Ajeti 23, Lenjani 40, Sadiku 64)
Qatar 1 (Hassan 2)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Harkam (Aut)
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Ajeti, Mavraj, Aliji (Agolli 66), Basha (Cana 61), Lila, Lenjani (Rashica 46), Gashi (Sadiku 46), Roshi (Shala 71), Cikalleshi (Balaj 46).

May 29 - Bad Erlach, Austria
Azerbaijan 1 (Ismayilov pen 72)
Macedonia 3 (Radeski 19, Pandev 33, Nestorovski 90+2)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Hameter (Aut)

May 29 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 2 (Soksana 10, Laboravy 47)
East Timor 0
HT: 1-0

May 29 - Miami, USA
Colombia 3 (D Moreno 13, Cuadrado 54, Martinez 72)
Haiti 1 (Guerrier 35)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Unkel (USA)
Colombia: Ospina - C Zapata, J Murillo (Aguilar 61), Arias, Diaz (Fabra 46), Cuadrado (Roa 66), Perez (Celis 60), D Torres (Sanchez 46), M Moreno, Bacca (Martinez 46), D Moreno.
Haiti: Placide - Alcenat (Goreux 57), Genevois, Jerome, Jaggy, Marcelin (Alexandre 59), Lafrance (Alceus 78), Hilaire, J Louis (Mustivar 48), Belfort (Nazon 62), Guerrier (Norde 57). *Sent off: Hilaire 39.*

May 29 - Augsburg
Germany 1 (Gomez pen 13)
Slovakia 3 (Hamsik 41, Duris 44, Kucka 52)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 22,110. **Ref:** Gumienny (Blg)
Germany: Leno (Ter Stegen 46) - Kimmich (Schurrle 75), Boateng (Howedes 64), Rudiger, Rudy, Gotze, Khedira (Weigl 46), Draxler, Hector, Sane, Gomez (Brandt 46).
Slovakia: Kozacik - Pekarik, Durica, Skrtel, Svento, Duda (Stoch 61), Kucka (Pecovsky 81), Hamsik (Gregus 85), Hrosovsky (Skriniar 78), Weiss, Duris (Sestak 68).

May 29 - Valletta, Malta
Italy 1 (Pelle 57)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Sant (Mlt)
Italy: Buffon - Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini, Candreva (Parolo 62), Florenzi, De Rossi (Jorginho 65), Giaccherini (Bonaventura 80), Darmian (Bernardeschi 60), Pelle (Zaza 65), Eder (Insigne 60).
Scotland: Marshall - Paterson (Berra 46), R Martin, Hanley, Mulgrew, Ritchie, D Fletcher, McArthur (Bryson 83), Phillips (Burke 70), McCormack (S Fletcher 46), Anya (Naismith 70).

May 29 - Nairobi
Kenya 1 (Wanyama pen 42)
Tanzania 1 (Maguli 32)
HT: 1-1

May 29 - Vientiane
Laos 1 (Sivilay 78)
Nepal 1 (B Rai 76)
HT: 0-0

May 29 - Commerce City, USA
Panama 0
Brazil 2 (Jonas 2, Gabriel 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Castro (Hnd)
Brazil: Alisson - Daniel Alves (Fabinho 77), Gil, Miranda, Douglas Santos, Renato Augusto (Rodrigo Caio 79), Elias, Willian (Lucas Lima 64), Luiz Gustavo (Hulk 46), Philippe Coutinho (Kaka 80), Jonas (Gabriel 64).

May 29 - Porto
Portugal 3 (Quaresma 13, Raphael Guerreiro 65, Eder 71)
Norway 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Sutton (RoI)
Portugal: Anthony Lopes - Cedric, Ricardo Carvalho (Danilo Pereira 59), Jose Fonte, Raphael Guerreiro (Eliseu 78), Joao Mario (Renato Sanches 72), William Carvalho, Joao Moutinho (Adrien Silva 55), Andre Gomes (Vieirinha 79), Quaresma (Rafa Silva 59), Eder.

May 29 - Turin, Italy
Romania 3 (Torje 23, Alibec 75, Stanciu 85)
Ukraine 4 (Zozulya 44, Zinchenko 49, Konoplyanka 55, Yarmolenko 59)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Massa (Ita)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Matel, Chiriches, D Grigore, Filip (Rat 46), Prepelita (Hoban 60), Pintilii, Torje (Popa 70), Sanmartean (Maxim 58), Stancu (Stanciu 79), Keseru (Alibec 58).
Ukraine: Pyatov - Fedetskyi (Butko 46), Khacheridi (Kucher 46), Rakitskyi, Shevchuk (Karavayev 72), Stepanenko, Sydorchuk (Rotan 68), Konoplyanka, Rybalka (Zinchenko 46), Yarmolenko, Zozulya (Seleznyov 46).

May 29 - St Gallen, Switzerland
Spain 3 (Nolito 11, 18, Pedro 90+4)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Spahic 29)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Klossner (Swi)
Sent off: Spahic (Bosnia-Herzegovina) 45+1
Spain: Asenjo - Bellerin, San Jose (Fornals 83), Bartra, Azpilicueta, Bruno, Silva (Denis Suarez 46), Fabregas (Llorente 60), Marco Asensio (Williams 60), Nolito (Oiarzabal 60), Aduriz (Pedro 46).

May 29 - Antalya
Turkey 1 (Mehmet Topal 90+4)
Montenegro 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Siebert (Ger)
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Sener, Ahmet, Mehmet Topal, Caner (Ismail 72), Ozan (Alper 83), Ozyakup (Sahin 58), Volkan Sen (Mor 46), Calhanoglu (Burak 58), Arda, Tosun (Malli 70).

Monday, May 30

May 30 - Nantes
France 3 (Matuidi 20, Giroud 41, Payet 90)
Cameroon 2 (Aboubakar 22, Choupo-Moting 88)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Evans (Wal)
France: Lloris - Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra, Pogba (Sissoko 65), Diarra (Kante 46), Matuidi, Coman (Cabaye 77), Giroud (Gignac 65), Payet.

May 30 - Bakau
Gambia 0
Zambia 0

May 30 - Malmo
Sweden 0
Slovenia 0
Att: 16,925. **Ref:** Kehlet (Den)
Sweden: Isaksson - Durmaz, Granqvist, Lindelof, Lustig (Jansson 46), Wernbloom (Rohden 71), Hiljemark, Forsberg (Zengin 46), S Larsson, Kiese Thelin, Guidetti.

Tuesday, May 31

May 31 - Klagenfurt
Austria 2 (Arnautovic 4, Schopf 18)
Malta 1 (Alaba og 87)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,200. **Ref:** Gestranius (Fin)
Austria: Lindner (Ozcan 46) - Dragovic, Hinteregger, Arnautovic (Sabitzer 46), Junuzovic, Harnik (Hinterseer 64), Suttner, Baumgartlinger (Ilsanker 46), Klein, Schopf (Alaba 63), Janko (Okotie 72).

May 31 - Nairobi
Kenya 1 (Mandela 90)
Sudan 1 (Hamid 24)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: Kahata (Kenya) 89

May 31 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 1 (V Thill 90)
Nigeria 3 (Ideye 36, Iheanacho 69, Ighalo 90+2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,866. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)

May 31 - Cork
Republic of Ireland 1 (Ward 72)
Belarus 2 (Gordeichuk 20, Volodko 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,200. **Ref:** Jakimovski (Mac)
Rep Ireland: Given (Forde 69) - Christie, R Keogh, Clark, Ward, McGeady (O'Dowda 75), Gibson (Hoolahan 68), Meyler (O'Kane 75), McClean (McGoldrick 79), Hendrick, Murphy (Long 68).

May 31 - Novi Sad
Serbia 3 (Ivanovic 33, Milunovic 74, Tadic 88)
Israel 1 (Zahavi pen 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Coltescu (Rom)

May 31 - Hanoi
Vietnam 2 (Le Cong Vinh 34, Nguyen Van Quyet 45+1)
Syria 0
HT: 2-0

May 31 - Harare
Zimbabwe 2 (Hadebe 4, 30)
Uganda 0
HT: 2-0

Wednesday, June 1

Jun1 - Brussels
Belgium 1 (R Lukaku 89)
Finland 1 (Hamalainen 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,025. **Ref:** Miguel (Por)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Denayer, Vermaelen, Vertonghen, Witsel, Fellaini (R Lukaku 79), Origi (Mertens 57), De Bruyne, E Hazard, Batshuayi (Benteke 57).

Jun1 - Innsbruck, Austria
Czech Republic 2 (Rosicky 49, Necid 90)
Russia 1 (Kokorin 7)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 650. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Czech Republic: Cech - Gebre Selassie, Hubnik (Sivok 46), M Kadlec, Limbersky (Kaderabek 64), Darida, Pavelka (Plasil 46), Dockal (Skalak 41), Rosicky (Kolar 85), Krejci, Lafata (Necid 46).
Russia: Lodygin (Guilherme 46) - Smolnikov, V Berezutsky (Neustadter 63), Ignashevich, Torbinsky (D Kombarov 63), Denisov, Ivanov (Golovin 63), Shatov, Smolov, Kokorin (Samedov 63), Dzyuba (Mamaev 46).

Jun1 - Carson, USA
El Salvador 0
Armenia 4 (Garcia og 2, Hambardzumyan 8, Barseghyan 69, Kadimyan 75)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Bourdeau (Can)

Jun1 - Tallinn
Estonia 2 (Kruglov 24, Liivak 90+1)
Andorra 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,658. **Ref:** Slyva (Lit)
Sent off: Ayala (Andorra) 86

Jun1 - Fort Lauderdale, USA
Guatemala 1 (Tinoco 70)
Venezuela 1 (S Rondon 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,217. **Ref:** Santos (PR)

Jun1 - San Diego, USA
Mexico 1 (J Hernandez 87)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Toledo (USA)
Mexico: Talavera - Aguilar (Guardado 46), Araujo (Molina 46), Y Corona, Torres Nilo, H Herrera (Duenas 65), Reyes, Layun, J M Corona (Aquino 57), Peralta (Lozano 62), R Jimenez (J Hernandez 78).
Chile: Toselli - Fuenzalida, G Medel (G Jara 69), Roco, Mena, Aranguiz, M Diaz (Silva 64), Vidal (Pulgar 78), Puch (Orellana 56), Castillo (Vargas 50), Sanchez (Pinilla 82).

Jun1 - Oslo
Norway 3 (Johansen 1, Helland 41, Sorloth 67)
Iceland 2 (Ingason 36, G Sigurdsson pen 81)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 9,568. **Ref:** Clancy (Sco)
Iceland: Kristinsson (I Jonsson 46) - Hauksson (E Bjarnason 62), R Sigurdsson, Ingason, Magnusson, J Gudmundsson, A Gunnarsson (R Sigurjonsson 82), Hallfredsson (B Bjarnason 46), G Sigurdsson, Finnbogason (Sigthorsson 62), Bodvarsson (Gudjohnsen 46).

Jun1 - Gdansk
Poland 1 (Jedrzejczyk 60)
Holland 2 (Janssen 33, Wijnaldum 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,392. **Ref:** Zelinka (CzR)
Poland: Szczesny - Piszczek (Cionek 46), Glik, Pazdan, Jedrzejczyk, Blaszczykowski (Kapustka 46), Zielinski, Maczynski (Jodlowiec 80), Grosicki (Peszko 77), Milik (Stepinski 87), Lewandowski (Linetty 67).
Holland: Cillessen - Tete, Bruma, Van Dijk, Willems (Van Aanholt 46), Van Ginkel (Strootman 71), Bazoer, Wijnaldum, Berghuis (Narsingh 67), Janssen (Dost 74), Promes.

World Service

Jun1 - Salzburg, Austria
Spain 6 (Silva 30, Fabregas 32, Nolito 38, 53, Morata 50, 89)
South Korea 1 (Ju Se-jong 83)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 31,800. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)
Spain: Casillas (Sergio Rico 73) - Azpilicueta (Jordi Alba 46), Pique (Aduriz 59), Bartra, Bellerin, Bruno, Iniesta (Thiago 46), Fabregas (Busquets 46), Silva (Pedro 46), Nolito, Morata.

Thursday, June 2

Jun 2 - London
England 1 (Smalling 86)
Portugal 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 82,503. **Ref:** Guida (Ita)
England: Hart - Walker, Smalling, Cahill, Rose, Dier, Milner (Wilshere 66), Alli (Henderson 90), Rooney (Lallana 78), Kane (Sturridge 78), Vardy (Sterling 66).
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Vieirinha, Bruno Alves, Ricardo Carvalho (Eder 90), Eliseu, Joao Moutinho (William Carvalho 72), Joao Mario (Andre Gomes 46), Danilo Pereira, Nani (Quaresma 61), Rafa Silva (Jose Fonte 38), Adrien Silva (Renato Sanches 72). *Sent off: Bruno Alves 35.*

Jun 2 - Skopje
Macedonia 1 (Trajkovski 10)
Iran 3 (Azmoun 8, 20, 60)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Doyle (RoI)

Friday, June 3

Jun 3 - Bergamo, Italy
Albania 1 (Sadiku 13)
Ukraine 3 (Stepanenko 8, Yarmolenko 48, Konoplyanka 87)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,496. **Ref:** Mazzoleni (Ita)
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Cana (Ajeti 46), Mavraj, Agolli, Kace (Balaj 74), Xhaka (Basha 46), Abrashi (Memushaj 46), Roshi, Lenjani (Gashi 67), Sadiku (Cikalleshi 60).
Ukraine: Pyatov - Fedetskyi (Butko 46), Rakitskyi, Khacheridi, Shevchuk, Harmash (Kovalenko 46), Stepanenko (Tymoshchuk 90+1), Sydorchuk (Rotan 68), Yarmolenko (Zinchenko 80), Zozulya (Seleznyov 63), Konoplyanka.

Jun 3 - Rohrbach an der Lafnitz, Austria
Canada 1 (Akindele 43)
Azerbaijan 1 (Nazarov pen 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 150. **Ref:** Amhof (Swi)

Jun 3 - Qinhuangdao
China 4 (Jiang Ning 3, Zhang Yuning 30, 64, Hu Rentian 88)
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Plaza 66, 85)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Bin Jahari (Sin)

Jun 3 - Frankfurt, Germany
Kosovo 2 (Albert Bunjaku 44, Rashani 90+4)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Boucaut (Blg)
Sent off: Celina (Kosovo) 36; Petersen (Faroe Is) 81

Jun 3 - Bucharest
Romania 5 (Popa 2, Amisulashvili og 3, Stanciu 48, Torje 80, Keseru 86)
Georgia 1 (Moti og 67)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 27,934. **Ref:** Dias (Por)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Sapunaru, D Grigore, Moti, Rat, Hoban (Prepelita 63), Pintilii (Sanmartean 84), Popa (Torje 70), Stanciu (Alibec 83), Stancu (Keseru 70), Andone (Chipciu 63).

Jun 3 - Lugano
Switzerland 2 (Dzemaili 12, Mehmedi 70)
Moldova 1 (Ginsari 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,700. **Ref:** Hernandez (Spa)
Switzerland: Burki - Lichtsteiner (Lang 63), Von Bergen, Schar, Rodriguez (Moubandje 63), Embolo (Tarashaj 58), Xhaka (Frei 70), Behrami, Shaqiri, Dzemaili (Zakaria 77), Derdiyok (Mehmedi 46).

Saturday, June 4

Jun 4 - Sydney
Australia 1 (Leckie 90+3)
Greece 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,682. **Ref:** Iida (Jap)

Jun 4 - Vienna
Austria 0
Holland 2 (Janssen 9, Wijnaldum 66)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Austria: Almer - Klein, Prodl (Hinteregger 78), Dragovic, Fuchs, Baumgartlinger (Ilsanker 89), Alaba, Junuzovic (Harnik 67), Sabitzer (Jantscher 81), Arnautovic (Schopf 81), Janko (Hinterseer 67).
Holland: Zoet (Cillessen 74) - Tete (Veltman 86), Bruma, Van Dijk, Van Aanholt, Bazoer (Vilhena 79), Strootman (Van Ginkel 71), Berghuis (Narsingh 61), Wijnaldum, Promes, Janssen (L De Jong 65).

Jun 4 - Rijeka
Croatia 10 (Pjaca 20, Mandzukic 24, 36, 38, Srna 25, Perisic 40, Rakitic 50, N Kalinic 59, 73, 84)
San Marino 0
HT: 6-0. **Att:** 3,911. **Ref:** Zganec (Sln)
Croatia: Subasic - Strinic, Schildenfeld, Vida, Srna (Vrsaljko 56), Badelj (Rog 75), Modric (Kovacic 46), Pjaca (Coric 75), Rakitic (Kramaric 55), Perisic, Mandzukic (N Kalinic 56).

Jun 4 - Metz
France 3 (Giroud 8, 35, Koscielny 39)
Scotland 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 25,057. **Ref:** Delferiere (Blg)
France: Lloris - Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra (Digne 83), Pogba, Kante (Sissoko 88), Matuidi (Cabaye 69), Coman (Griezmann 46), Giroud (Gignac 63), Payet (Martial 46).
Scotland: Marshall - Greer, Hanley, R Martin, Robertson (Mulgrew 46), D Fletcher, McArthur (McKay 84), Ritchie, Snodgrass (Kingsley 66), Maloney (Anya 46), S Fletcher (Naismith 58).

Jun 4 - Gelsenkirchen
Germany 2 (Lang og 39, T Muller 63)
Hungary 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,104. **Ref:** Strombergsson (Swe)
Germany: Neuer - Howedes, Boateng, Rudiger, Hector (Can 46), Khedira (Gomez 46), Kroos (Schweinsteiger 68), T Muller (Sane 69), Ozil, Draxler (Schurrle 60), Gotze (Podolski 79).
Hungary: Kiraly - Fiola (Bese 82), Lang, Guzmics, Kadar, Nagy, Pinter (Gera 59), Lovrencsics, Kleinheisler (Stieber 82), Dzsudzsak, Szalai (Priskin 64).

Jun 4 - Bouake
Ivory Coast 2 (Kodjia 52, Diomande 71)
Gabon 1 (Evouna 80)
HT: 0-0

Jun 4 - Trnava
Slovakia 0
Northern Ireland 0
Att: 18,111. **Ref:** Petrescu (Rom)
Slovakia: Kozacik - Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Svento, Hrosovsky, Kucka (Nemec 84), Mak (Stoch 65), Hamsik, Weiss, Duris (Duda 65).
Northern Ireland: McGovern - Cathcart (Hughes 30), McAuley, J Evans, McNair (C McLaughlin 90), Davis, Baird, Norwood (C Evans 83), Ferguson (Hodson 86), K Lafferty (Washington 55), Ward (Magennis 46).

Sunday, June 5

Jun 5 - Brussels
Belgium 3 (R Lukaku 3, E Hazard 70, Ciman 74)
Norway 2 (King 21, Veton Berisha 48)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 42,126. **Ref:** Stieler (Ger)
Belgium: Courtois - Denayer (Ciman 66), Alderweireld, Vertonghen, J Lukaku, Witsel (Fellaini 57), Nainggolan, De Bruyne, Mertens (Origi 80), R Lukaku, E Hazard (Dembele 85).

Jun 5 - Prague
Czech Republic 1 (Suchy 46)
South Korea 2 (Yoon Bitgaram 26, Suk Hyun-jun 40)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 16,490. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)
Czech Republic: Cech - Gebre Selassie, Kaderabek (Limbersky 46), M Kadlec (Suchy 46), Sivok, Darida, Krejci (Pudil 70), Pavelka (Plasil 46), Rosicky, Sural (Skalak 46), Necid (Skoda 79). *Sent off: Gebre Selassie 60.*

Jun 5 - Monaco
Serbia 1 (A Mitrovic 88)
Russia 1 (Dzyuba 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Buquet (Fra)
Russia: Akinfeev - Smolnikov (Shishkin 61), Ignashevich, V Berezutsky, Schennikov (Torbinsky 76), Denisov (Glushakov 51), Golovin (Ivanov 60), Shatov (Shirokov 76), Kokorin, Smolov (Mamaev 46), Dzyuba.

Jun 5 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 0
Turkey 1 (Burak 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,209. **Ref:** Guida (Ita)
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Caner (Ismail 64), Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, Gokhan Gonul, Selcuk Inan (Malli 83), Ozyakup (Volkan Sen 46), Ozan, Calhanoglu (Mor 46), Arda (Sahin 73), Burak (Sahan 90).

Jun 5 - Stockholm
Sweden 3 (Forsberg 40, Lustig 57, Guidetti 87)
Wales 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,942. **Ref:** Welz (Ger)
Sweden: Isaksson (Olsen 46) - Lustig, Johansson, Granqvist, M Olsson (Augustinsson 46), S Larsson, Kallstrom, Lewicki (Ekdal 61), Forsberg (Durmaz 61), Berg (Guidetti 76), Ibrahimovic (Kujovic 61).
Wales: Hennessey (Ward 46) - Gunter, Chester (Collins 64), A Williams, Davies, Taylor, Vaughan (Edwards 64), King (Bale 64), Ramsey, J Williams (Huws 73), Vokes (Church 73).

Monday, June 6

Jun 6 - Reykjavik
Iceland 4 (Sigthorsson 10, B Saevarsson 20, Finnbogason 42, Gudjohnsen 82)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Borski (Pol)
Iceland: Halldorsson - B Saevarsson, Ingason, R Sigurdsson (Hermannsson 54), J Gudmundsson (E Bjarnason 46), Sigthorsson (R Sigurjonsson 80), G Sigurdsson, Finnbogason (Gudjohnsen 46), A Gunnarsson, Traustason (Hallfredsson 69), A Skulason (Magnusson 87).

Jun 6 - Verona
Italy 2 (Candreva pen 27, De Rossi 71)
Finland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 27,702. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
Italy: Sirigu - Barzagli, Bonucci (Ogbonna 85), Chiellini, Candreva (Bernardeschi 76), Parolo, Thiago Motta (De Rossi 63), Giaccherini (Sturaro 63), El Shaarawy (Florenzi 69), Immobile, Zaza (Pelle 81).

Jun 6 - Krakow
Poland 0
Lithuania 0
Att: 33,027. **Ref:** Glova (Slk)
Poland: Fabianski (Boruc 46) - Kapustka, Glik (Salamon 46), Cionek, Wawrzyniak, Blaszczykowski (Jedrzejczyk 74), Krychowiak (Zielinski 85), Maczynski (Jodlowiec 46), Starzynski, Grosicki (Peszko 77), Milik.

Tuesday, June 7

Jun 7 - Melbourne
Australia 1 (Sainsbury 57)
Greece 2 (Mantalos 8, Maniatis 23)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 33,622. **Ref:** Madley (Eng)

Jun 7 - Bad Waltersdorf, Austria
Canada 2 (Edgar 20, Komilov og 81)
Uzbekistan 1 (Shomurodov 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50. **Ref:** Schuttengruber (Aut)

Jun 7 - Dalian
China 0
Kazakhstan 1 (Nurgaliyev 67)
HT: 0-0
Sent off: Akhmedov (Kazakhstan) 82

Jun 7 - Tehran
Iran 6 (Shojaei pen 6, Taremi 25, Torabi 29, Ansarifard 68, 90, Azmoun 87)
Kyrgyzstan 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Al Majarafi (Oma)

Jun 7 - Getafe
Spain 0
Georgia 1 (Okriashvili 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,400. **Ref:** Thorarinsson (Ice)
Spain: De Gea - Juanfran (Bellerin 46), Pique, Sergio Ramos (San Jose 46), Jordi Alba, Busquets (Pedro 75), Lucas Vazquez (Silva 60), Fabregas (Iniesta 46), Thiago (Koke 46), Nolito, Aduriz.

Wednesday, June 8

Jun 8 - Windhoek
Namibia 0
Malawi 0

Jun 8 - Lisbon
Portugal 7 (Cristiano Ronaldo 36, 45, Quaresma 39, 77, Danilo Pereira 55, Mets og 61, Eder 80)
Estonia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 52,536. **Ref:** Vertenten (Blg)
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Raphael Guerreiro, Cedric (Vieirinha 46), Pepe (Ricardo Carvalho 58), Jose Fonte, Joao Mario (Eder 59), Joao Moutinho (Renato Sanches 58), Danilo Pereira (William Carvalho 70), Andre Gomes, Cristiano Ronaldo (Nani 46), Quaresma.

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (Q) = qualified for next stage

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EDITORIAL
Pinehurst 2, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7BF
Tel: +44 (0) 1252 555255

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP
Matthew Johnston
Tel: +44 (0) 1252 555367
E-mail: matthew.johnston@timeinc.com

MARKETING EXECUTIVE Simon Nainby
PRODUCTION MANAGER Tom Jennings
MANAGING DIRECTOR Hamish Dawson
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR Oswin Grady

International licensing enquiries
+44 (0) 20 314 85490
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ALBANIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Etrit **BERISHA**	(27) 10.03.89	Lazio (Ita)
23	Alban **HOXHA**	(28) 23.11.87	Partizani Tirana
12	Orges **SHEHI**	(38) 25.09.77	Skenderbeu

DEFENDERS

7	Ansi **AGOLLI**	(33) 11.11.82	Qarabag (Aze)
18	Arlind **AJETI**	(22) 25.09.93	Frosinone (Ita)
17	Naser **ALIJI**	(22) 27.12.93	Basle (Swi)
5	Lorik **CANA**	(32) 27.06.83	Nantes (Fra)
2	Andi **LILA**	(30) 12.02.86	PAS Giannina (Gre)
4	Elseid **HYSAJ**	(22) 20.02.94	Napoli (Ita)
15	Mergim **MAVRAJ**	(30) 09.06.86	Cologne (Ger)
6	Freddie **VESELI**	(23) 20.11.92	Lugano (Swi)

MIDFIELDERS

22	Amir **ABRASHI**	(26) 27.03.90	Freiburg (Ger)
8	Migjen **BASHA**	(29) 05.01.87	Lucerne (Swi)
20	Ergys **KACE**	(22) 08.07.93	PAOK (Gre)
13	Burim **KUKELI**	(32) 16.01.84	Zurich (Swi)
3	Ermir **LENJANI**	(26) 05.08.89	Rennes (Fra)
9	Ledian **MEMUSHAJ**	(29) 07.12.86	Pescara (Ita)
21	Odise **ROSHI**	(25) 21.05.91	Rijeka (Cro)
14	Taulant **XHAKA**	(25) 28.03.91	Basle (Swi)

FORWARDS

19	Bekim **BALAJ**	(25) 11.01.91	Terek Grozny (Rus)
16	Sokol **CIKALLESHI**	(25) 27.07.90	Istanbul BB (Tur)
11	Shkelzen **GASHI**	(27) 15.07.88	Colorado Rapids (USA)
10	Armando **SADIKU**	(25) 27.05.91	Zurich (Swi)

COACH

Gianni **DE BIASI** (Ita) (59) 16.06.56

AUSTRIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Robert **ALMER**	(32) 20.03.84	Austria Vienna
12	Heinz **LINDNER**	(25) 17.07.90	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
23	Ramazan **OZCAN**	(31) 28.06.84	Ingolstadt (Ger)

DEFENDERS

3	Aleksandar **DRAGOVIC**	(25) 06.03.91	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
5	Christian **FUCHS**	(30) 07.04.86	Leicester City (Eng)
4	Martin **HINTEREGGER**	(23) 07.09.92	Red Bull Salzburg
17	Florian **KLEIN**	(29) 17.11.86	Stuttgart (Ger)
15	Sebastian **PRODL**	(28) 21.06.87	Watford (Eng)
13	Markus **SUTTNER**	(29) 16.04.87	Ingolstadt (Ger)
16	Kevin **WIMMER**	(23) 15.11.92	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

8	David **ALABA**	(23) 24.06.92	Bayern Munich (Ger)
14	Julian **BAUMGARTLINGER**	(28) 02.01.88	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
2	Gyorgy **GARICS**	(32) 08.03.84	Darmstadt (Ger)
11	Martin **HARNIK**	(29) 10.06.87	Stuttgart (Ger)
6	Stefan **ILSANKER**	(27) 18.05.89	RB Leipzig (Ger)
22	Jakob **JANTSCHER**	(27) 08.01.89	Lucerne (Swi)
10	Zlatko **JUNUZOVIC**	(28) 26.09.87	Werder Bremen (Ger)
20	Marcel **SABITZER**	(22) 17.03.94	RB Leipzig (Ger)
18	Alessandro **SCHOPF**	(22) 07.02.94	Schalke (Ger)

FORWARDS

7	Marko **ARNAUTOVIC**	(27) 19.04.89	Stoke City (Eng)
19	Lukas **HINTERSEER**	(25) 28.03.91	Ingolstadt (Ger)
21	Marc **JANKO**	(32) 25.06.83	Basle (Swi)
9	Rubin **OKOTIE**	(29) 06.06.87	1860 Munich (Ger)

COACH

Marcel **KOLLER** (Swi) (55) 11.11.60

BELGIUM

GOALKEEPERS

1	Thibaut **COURTOIS**	(24) 11.05.92	Chelsea (Eng)
13	Jean-Francois **GILLET**	(37) 31.05.79	Catania (Ita)
12	Simon **MIGNOLET**	(28) 06.03.88	Liverpool (Eng)

DEFENDERS

2	Toby **ALDERWEIRELD**	(27) 02.03.89	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
23	Laurent **CIMAN**	(30) 05.08.85	Montreal Impact (USA)
15	Jason **DENAYER**	(20) 28.06.95	Manchester City (Eng)
18	Christian **KABASELE**	(25) 24.02.91	Genk
21	Jordan **LUKAKU**	(21) 25.07.94	Oostende
16	Thomas **MEUNIER**	(24) 12.09.91	Club Brugge
3	Thomas **VERMAELEN**	(30) 14.11.85	Barcelona (Spa)
5	Jan **VERTONGHEN**	(29) 24.04.87	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

19	Mousa **DEMBELE**	(28) 16.07.87	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
8	Marouane **FELLAINI**	(28) 22.11.87	Manchester United (Eng)
4	Radja **NAINGGOLAN**	(28) 04.05.88	Roma (Ita)
6	Axel **WITSEL**	(27) 12.01.89	Zenit (Rus)

FORWARDS

22	Michy **BATSHUAYI**	(22) 02.10.93	Marseille (Fra)
20	Christian **BENTEKE**	(25) 03.12.90	Liverpool (Eng)
7	Kevin **DE BRUYNE**	(24) 28.06.91	Manchester City (Eng)
11	Yannick **CARRASCO**	(22)04.09.93	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
10	Eden **HAZARD**	(25) 07.01.91	Chelsea (Eng)
9	Romelu **LUKAKU**	(23) 13.05.93	Everton (Eng)
14	Dries **MERTENS**	(29) 06.05.87	Napoli (Ita)
17	Divock **ORIGI**	(21) 18.04.95	Liverpool (Eng)

COACH

Marc **WILMOTS** (47) 22.02.69

CROATIA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Lovre **KALINIC**	(26) 03.04.90	Hajduk Split
23	Danijel **SUBASIC**	(31) 27.10.84	Monaco (Fra)
1	Ivan **VARGIC**	(29) 15.03.87	Lazio (Ita)

DEFENDERS

5	Vedran **CORLUKA**	(30) 05.02.86	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
6	Tin **JEDVAJ**	(20) 28.11.95	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
13	Gordon **SCHILDENFELD**	(31) 18.03.85	Dinamo Zagreb
11	Darijo **SRNA**	(34) 01.05.82	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
3	Ivan **STRINIC**	(28) 17.07.87	Napoli (Ita)
21	Domagoj **VIDA**	(27) 29.04.89	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
2	Sime **VRSALJKO**	(24) 10.01.92	Sassuolo (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

19	Milan **BADELJ**	(27) 25.02.89	Fiorentina (Ita)
14	Marcelo **BROZOVIC**	(23) 16.11.92	Dinamo Zagreb
18	Ante **CORIC**	(19) 14.04.97	Dinamo Zagreb
8	Mateo **KOVACIC**	(22) 06.05.94	Real Madrid (Spa)
10	Luka **MODRIC**	(30) 09.09.85	Real Madrid (Spa)
4	Ivan **PERISIC**	(27) 02.02.89	Internazionale (Ita)
7	Ivan **RAKITIC**	(28) 10.03.88	Barcelona (Spa)
15	Marko **ROG**	(20) 19.07.95	Dinamo Zagreb

FORWARDS

22	Duje **COP**	(26) 01.02.90	Dinamo Zagreb
16	Nikola **KALINIC**	(28) 05.01.88	Fiorentina (Ita)
9	Andrej **KRAMARIC**	(24) 19.06.91	Hoffenheim (Ger)
17	Mario **MANDZUKIC**	(30) 21.05.86	Juventus (Ita)
20	Marko **PJACA**	(21) 06.05.95	Dinamo Zagreb

COACH

Ante **CACIC** (62) 29.09.53

CZECH REPUBLIC

Free agent...Tomas Rosicky left Arsenal after the Euros

GOALKEEPERS

1	Petr **CECH**	(34) 20.05.82	Arsenal (Eng)
23	Tomas **KOUBEK**	(23) 26.08.92	Sparta Prague
16	Tomas **VACLIK**	(27) 29.03.89	Basle (Swi)

DEFENDERS

4	Theodor **GEBRE SELASSIE**	(29) 24.12.86	Werder Bremen (Ger)
5	Roman **HUBNIK**	(32) 06.06.84	Viktoria Plzen
2	Pavel **KADERABEK**	(24) 25.04.92	Hoffenheim (Ger)
3	Michal **KADLEC**	(31) 13.12.84	Fenerbahce (Tur)
8	David **LIMBERSKY**	(32) 06.10.83	Viktoria Plzen
6	Tomas **SIVOK**	(32) 15.09.83	Bursaspor (Tur)
17	Marek **SUCHY**	(28) 29.03.88	Basle (Swi)

MIDFIELDERS

22	Vladimir **DARIDA**	(25) 08.08.90	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
9	Borek **DOCKAL**	(27) 30.09.88	Sparta Prague
14	Daniel **KOLAR**	(30) 27.10.85	Viktoria Plzen
19	Ladislav **KREJCI**	(23) 05.07.92	Sparta Prague
15	David **PAVELKA**	(25) 18.05.91	Kasimpasa (Tur)
13	Jaroslav **PLASIL**	(34) 05.01.82	Bordeaux (Fra)
11	Daniel **PUDIL**	(30) 27.09.85	Watford (Eng)
10	Tomas **ROSICKY**	(35) 04.10.80	Arsenal (Eng)
20	Jiri **SKALAK**	(24) 12.03.92	Brighton (Eng)
18	Josef **SURAL**	(26) 30.05.90	Sparta Prague

FORWARDS

21	David **LAFATA**	(34) 18.09.81	Sparta Prague
7	Tomas **NECID**	(26) 13.08.89	Bursaspor (Tur)
12	Milan **SKODA**	(30) 16.01.86	Slavia Prague

COACH

Pavel **VRBA** (52) 06.12.63

ENGLAND

GOALKEEPERS

13	Fraser **FORSTER**	(28) 17.03.88	Southampton
1	Joe **HART**	(29) 19.04.87	Manchester City
23	Tom **HEATON**	(30) 15.04.86	Burnley

DEFENDERS

21	Ryan **BERTRAND**	(26) 05.08.89	Southampton
5	Gary **CAHILL**	(30) 19.12.85	Chelsea
12	Nathaniel **CLYNE**	(25) 05.04.91	Liverpool
3	Danny **ROSE**	(25) 02.07.90	Tottenham Hotspur
6	Chris **SMALLING**	(26) 22.11.89	Manchester United
16	John **STONES**	(22) 28.05.94	Everton
2	Kyle **WALKER**	(26) 28.05.90	Tottenham Hotspur

MIDFIELDERS

20	Dele **ALLI**	(20) 11.04.96	Tottenham Hotspur
19	Ross **BARKLEY**	(22) 05.12.93	Everton
17	Eric **DIER**	(22) 15.01.94	Tottenham Hotspur
14	Jordan **HENDERSON**	(25) 17.06.90	Liverpool
8	Adam **LALLANA**	(28) 10.05.88	Liverpool
4	James **MILNER**	(30) 04.01.86	Liverpool
10	Wayne **ROONEY**	(30) 24.10.85	Manchester United
18	Jack **WILSHERE**	(24) 01.01.92	Arsenal

FORWARDS

9	Harry **KANE**	(22) 28.07.93	Tottenham Hotspur
22	Marcus **RASHFORD**	(18) 31.10.97	Manchester United
7	Raheem **STERLING**	(21) 08.12.94	Manchester City
15	Daniel **STURRIDGE**	(26) 01.09.89	Liverpool
11	Jamie **VARDY**	(29) 11.01.87	Leicester City

COACH

Roy **HODGSON** (68) 09.08.47

FRANCE

GOALKEEPERS

23	Benoit **COSTIL**	(28) 03.07.87	Rennes
1	Hugo **LLORIS**	(29) 26.12.86	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
16	Steve **MANDANDA**	(31) 28.03.85	Marseille

DEFENDERS

17	Lucas **DIGNE**	(22) 20.07.93	Paris Saint-Germain
3	Patrice **EVRA**	(35) 15.05.81	Juventus (Ita)
2	Christophe **JALLET**	(32) 31.10.83	Lyon
21	Laurent **KOSCIELNY**	(30) 10.09.85	Arsenal (Eng)
13	Eliaquim **MANGALA**	(25) 13.02.91	Manchester City (Eng)
4	Adil **RAMI**	(30) 27.12.85	Sevilla (Spa)
19	Bacary **SAGNA**	(33) 14.02.83	Manchester City (Eng)
22	Samuel **UMTITI**	(22) 14.11.93	Lyon

MIDFIELDERS

6	Yohan **CABAYE**	(30) 14.01.86	Crystal Palace (Eng)
5	N'Golo **KANTE**	(25) 29.03.91	Leicester City (Eng)
14	Blaise **MATUIDI**	(29) 09.04.87	Paris Saint-Germain
8	Dimitri **PAYET**	(29) 29.03.87	West Ham United (Eng)
15	Paul **POGBA**	(23) 15.03.93	Juventus (Ita)
12	Morgan **SCHNEIDERLIN**	(26) 08.11.89	Manchester United (Eng)
18	Moussa **SISSOKO**	(26) 16.08.89	Newcastle United (Eng)

FORWARDS

20	Kingsley **COMAN**	(19) 13.06.96	Juventus (Ita)
10	Andre-Pierre **GIGNAC**	(30) 05.12.85	Tigres (Mex)
9	Olivier **GIROUD**	(29) 30.09.86	Arsenal (Eng)
7	Antoine **GRIEZMANN**	(25) 21.03.91	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
11	Anthony **MARTIAL**	(20) 05.12.95	Manchester United (Eng)

COACH

Didier **DESCHAMPS** (47) 15.10.68

GERMANY

GOALKEEPERS

12	Bernd **LENO**	(24) 04.03.92	Bayer Leverkusen
1	Manuel **NEUER**	(30) 27.03.86	Bayern Munich
22	Marc-Andre **TER STEGEN**	(24) 30.04.92	Barcelona (Spa)

DEFENDERS

17	Jerome **BOATENG**	(27) 03.09.88	Bayern Munich
3	Jonas **HECTOR**	(26) 27.05.90	Cologne
4	Benedikt **HOWEDES**	(28) 29.02.88	Schalke
5	Mats **HUMMELS**	(27) 16.12.88	Borussia Dortmund
21	Joshua **KIMMICH**	(21) 08.02.95	Bayern Munich
2	Shkodran **MUSTAFI**	(24) 17.04.92	Valencia (Spa)
16	Jonathan **TAH**	(20) 11.02.96	Bayer Leverkusen

MIDFIELDERS

14	Emre **CAN**	(22) 12.01.94	Liverpool (Eng)
11	Julian **DRAXLER**	(22) 20.09.93	Wolfsburg
6	Sami **KHEDIRA**	(29) 04.04.87	Juventus (Ita)
18	Toni **KROOS**	(26) 04.01.90	Real Madrid (Spa)
8	Mesut **OZIL**	(27) 15.10.88	Arsenal (Eng)
20	Leroy **SANE**	(20) 11.01.96	Schalke
9	Andre **SCHURRLE**	(25) 06.11.90	Wolfsburg
7	Bastian **SCHWEINSTEIGER**	(31) 01.08.84	Manchester United (Eng)
15	Julian **WEIGL**	(20) 08.09.95	Borussia Dortmund

FORWARDS

23	Mario **GOMEZ**	(30) 10.07.85	Fiorentina (Ita)
19	Mario **GOTZE**	(24) 03.06.92	Bayern Munich
13	Thomas **MULLER**	(26) 13.09.89	Bayern Munich
10	Lukas **PODOLSKI**	(31) 04.06.85	Galatasaray (Tur)

COACH

Joachim **LOW** (56) 03.02.60

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

HUNGARY

GOALKEEPERS

12	Denes **DIBUSZ**	(25) 16.11.90	Ferencvaros
22	Peter **GULACSI**	(26) 06.05.90	RB Leipzig (Ger)
1	Gabor **KIRALY**	(40) 01.04.76	Haladas

DEFENDERS

21	Barnabas **BESE**	(22) 06.05.94	MTK Budapest
5	Attila **FIOLA**	(26) 17.02.90	Puskas Akademia
20	Richard **GUZMICS**	(29) 16.04.87	Wisla Krakow (Pol)
23	Roland **JUHASZ**	(32) 01.07.83	Videoton
4	Tamas **KADAR**	(26) 14.03.90	Lech Poznan (Pol)
3	Mihaly **KORHUT**	(27) 01.12.88	Debrecen
2	Adam **LANG**	(23) 17.01.93	Videoton

MIDFIELDERS

6	Akos **ELEK**	(27) 21.07.88	Diosgyor
10	Zoltan **GERA**	(37) 22.04.79	Ferencvaros
15	Laszla **KLEINHEISLER**	(22) 08.04.94	Werder Bremen (Ger)
14	Gergo **LOVRENCSICS**	(27) 01.09.88	Lech Poznan (Pol)
8	Adam **NAGY**	(20) 17.06.95	Ferencvaros
16	Adam **PINTER**	(27) 12.06.88	Ferencvaros
18	Zoltan **STIEBER**	(27) 16.10.88	Hamburg (Ger)

FORWARDS

13	Daniel **BODE**	(29) 24.10.86	Ferencvaros
7	Balazs **DZSUDZSAK**	(29) 23.12.86	Bursaspor (Tur)
11	Krisztian **NEMETH**	(27) 05.01.89	Al Gharafa (Qat)
17	Nemanja **NIKOLIC**	(28) 31.12.87	Legia Warsaw (Pol)
19	Tamas **PRISKIN**	(29) 27.09.86	Slovan Bratislava (Slk)
9	Adam **SZALAI**	(28) 09.12.87	Hoffenheim (Ger)

COACH

Bernd **STORCK** (Ger)	(53) 25.01.63	

ICELAND

GOALKEEPERS

1	Hannes **HALLDORSSON**	(32) 28.04.84	NEC (Hol)
13	Ingvar **JONSSON**	(26) 18.10.89	Sandefjord (Nor)
12	Ogmundur **KRISTINSSON**	(26) 19.06.89	Hammarby (Swe)

DEFENDERS

14	Kari **ARNASON**	(33) 13.10.82	Malmo (Swe)
3	Haukur Heidar **HAUKSSON**	(24) 01.09.91	AIK (Swe)
4	Hjortur **HERMANNSSON**	(21) 08.02.95	PSV (Hol)
5	Sverrir Ingi **INGASON**	(22) 05.08.93	Lokeren (Blg)
19	Hordur **MAGNUSSON**	(23) 11.02.93	Juventus (Ita)
2	Birkir **SAEVARSSON**	(31) 11.11.84	Hammarby (Swe)
6	Ragnar **SIGURDSSON**	(29) 19.06.86	Krasnodar (Rus)
23	Ari **SKULASON**	(29) 14.05.87	OB (Den)

MIDFIELDERS

8	Birkir **BJARNASON**	(28) 27.05.88	Basle (Swi)
18	Theodor **BJARNASON**	(29) 04.03.87	AGF (Den)
7	Johann **GUDMUNDSSON**	(25) 27.10.90	Charlton Athletic (Eng)
17	Aron **GUNNARSSON**	(27) 22.04.89	Cardiff City (Eng)
20	Emil **HALLFREDSSON**	(31) 29.06.84	Udinese (Ita)
10	Gylfi **SIGURDSSON**	(26) 08.09.89	Swansea City (Eng)
16	Runar **SIGURJONSSON**	(25) 18.06.90	GIF Sundsvall (Swe)
21	Arnor Ingvi **TRAUSTASON**	(23) 30.04.93	IFK Norrkoping (Swe)

FORWARDS

15	Jon **BODVARSSON**	(24) 25.05.92	Kaiserslautern (Ger)
11	Alfred **FINNBOGASON**	(27) 01.02.89	Real Sociedad (Spa)
22	Eidur **GUDJOHNSEN**	(37) 15.09.78	Molde (Nor)
9	Kolbeinn **SIGTHORSSON**	(26) 14.03.90	Nantes (Fra)

CO-COACHES

Heimir **HALLGRIMSSON**	(49) 10.06.67	
Lars **LAGERBACK** (Swe)	(67) 16.07.48	

ITALY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluigi **BUFFON**	(38) 28.01.78	Juventus
13	Federico **MARCHETTI**	(33) 07.02.83	Lazio
12	Salvatore **SIRIGU**	(29) 12.01.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

DEFENDERS

15	Andrea **BARZAGLI**	(35) 08.05.81	Juventus
19	Leonardo **BONUCCI**	(29) 01.05.87	Juventus
3	Giorgio **CHIELLINI**	(31) 14.08.84	Juventus
4	Matteo **DARMIAN**	(26) 02.12.89	Manchester United (Eng)
2	Mattia **DE SCIGLIO**	(23) 20.10.92	Milan
5	Angelo **OGBONNA**	(28) 23.05.88	West Ham United (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

21	Federico **BERNARDESCHI**	(22) 16.02.94	Fiorentina
6	Antonio **CANDREVA**	(29) 28.02.87	Lazio
16	Daniele **DE ROSSI**	(32) 24.07.83	Roma
22	Stephan **EL SHAARAWY**	(23) 27.10.92	Milan
8	Alessandro **FLORENZI**	(25) 11.03.91	Roma
23	Emanuele **GIACCHERINI**	(31) 05.05.85	Sunderland (Eng)
10	Thiago **MOTTA**	(33) 28.08.82	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
18	Marco **PAROLO**	(31) 25.01.85	Lazio
14	Stefano **STURARO**	(23) 09.03.93	Juventus

FORWARDS

17	**EDER**	(29) 15.11.86	Sampdoria
11	Ciro **IMMOBILE**	(26) 20.02.90	Sevilla (Spa)
20	Lorenzo **INSIGNE**	(25) 04.06.91	Napoli
9	Graziano **PELLE**	(30) 15.07.85	Southampton (Eng)
7	Simone **ZAZA**	(24) 25.06.91	Juventus

COACH

Antonio **CONTE**	(46) 31.07.69	

NORTHERN IRELAND

GOALKEEPERS

12	Roy **CARROLL**	(38) 30.09.77	Linfield
23	Alan **MANNUS**	(34) 19.05.82	St Johnstone (Sco)
1	Michael **McGOVERN**	(31) 12.07.84	Hamilton Academical (Sco)

DEFENDERS

6	Chris **BAIRD**	(34) 25.02.82	Fulham (Eng)
20	Craig **CATHCART**	(27) 06.02.89	Watford (Eng)
5	Jonny **EVANS**	(28) 03.01.88	West Brom (Eng)
18	Aaron **HUGHES**	(36) 08.11.79	(unattached)
22	Lee **HODSON**	(24) 02.10.91	MK Dons (Eng)
4	Gareth **McAULEY**	(36) 05.12.79	West Brom (Eng)
15	Luke **McCULLOUGH**	(22) 15.02.94	Doncaster Rovers (Eng)
2	Conor **McLAUGHLIN**	(24) 26.07.91	Fleetwood Town (Eng)
17	Paddy **McNAIR**	(21) 27.04.95	Manchester United (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

14	Stuart **DALLAS**	(25) 19.04.91	Leeds United (Eng)
8	Steven **DAVIS**	(31) 01.01.85	Southampton (Eng)
13	Corry **EVANS**	(25) 30.07.90	Blackburn Rovers (Eng)
3	Shane **FERGUSON**	(24) 12.07.91	Millwall (Eng)
7	Niall **McGINN**	(28) 20.07.87	Aberdeen (Sco)
16	Oliver **NORWOOD**	(25) 12.04.91	Reading (Eng)
19	Jamie **WARD**	(30) 12.05.86	Nottingham Forest (Eng)

FORWARDS

9	Will **GRIGG**	(24) 03.07.91	Wigan Athletic (Eng)
10	Kyle **LAFFERTY**	(28) 16.09.87	Norwich City (Eng)
21	Josh **MAGENNIS**	(26) 15.05.90	Kilmarnock (Sco)
11	Conor **WASHINGTON**	(24) 18.05.92	QPR (Eng)

MANAGER

Michael **O'NEILL**	(46) 05.07.69	

POLAND

Impressive...Lukasz Piszczek had a good tournament

GOALKEEPERS

12	Artur **BORUC**	(36) 20.02.80	Bournemouth (Eng)
22	Lukasz **FABIANSKI**	(31) 18.04.85	Swansea City (Eng)
1	Wojciech **SZCZESNY**	(26) 18.04.90	Arsenal (Eng)

DEFENDERS

4	Thiago **CIONEK**	(30) 21.04.86	Palermo (Ita)
15	Kamil **GLIK**	(28) 03.02.88	Torino (Ita)
3	Artur **JEDRZEJCZYK**	(28) 04.11.87	Krasnodar (Rus)
2	Michal **PAZDAN**	(28) 21.09.987	Legia Warsaw
20	Lukasz **PISZCZEK**	(31) 03.06.85	Bor Dortmund (Ger)
18	Bartosz **SALAMON**	(25) 01.05.91	Cagliari (Ita)
14	Jakub **WAWRZYNIAK**	(32) 07.07.83	Lechia Gdansk

MIDFIELDERS

16	Jakub **BLASZCZYKOWSKI**	(30) 14.12.85	Bor Dortmund (Ger)
11	Kamil **GROSICKI**	(28) 08.06.88	Rennes (Fra)
6	Tomasz **JODLOWIEC**	(30) 08.09.85	Legia Warsaw
21	Bartosz **KAPUSTKA**	(19) 23.12.96	Cracovia
10	Grzegorz **KRYCHOWIAK**	(26) 29.01.90	Sevilla (Spa)
8	Karol **LINETTY**	(21) 02.02.95	Lech Poznan
5	Krzysztof **MACZYNSKI**	(29) 23.05.87	Wisla Krakow
17	Slawomir **PESZKO**	(31) 19.02.85	Lechia Gdansk
23	Filip **STARZYNSKI**	(25) 27.05.91	Lokeren (Blg)
19	Piotr **ZIELINSKI**	(22) 20.05.94	Udinese (Ita)

FORWARDS

9	Robert **LEWANDOWSKI**	(27) 21.08.88	Bayern Munich (Ger)
7	Arkadiusz **MILIK**	(22) 28.02.94	Ajax (Hol)
13	Mariusz **STEPINSKI**	(21) 12.05.95	Ruch Chorzow

COACH

Adam **NAWALKA**	(58) 23.10.57	

PORTUGAL

GOALKEEPERS

22	**EDUARDO**	(33) 19.09.82	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
12	Anthony **LOPES**	(25) 01.10.90	Lyon (Fra)
1	Rui **PATRICIO**	(28) 15.02.88	Sporting

DEFENDERS

2	Bruno **ALVES**	(34) 27.11.81	Fenerbahce (Tur)
6	Ricardo **CARVALHO**	(38) 18.05.78	Monaco (Fra)
19	**ELISEU**	(32) 01.10.83	Benfica
4	Jose **FONTE**	(32) 22.12.83	Southampton (Eng)
5	Raphael **GUERREIRO**	(22) 22.12.93	Lorient (Fra)
3	**PEPE**	(33) 26.02.83	Real Madrid (Spa)
21	Cedric **SOARES**	(24) 31.08.91	Southampton (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

14	William **CARVALHO**	(24) 07.04.92	Sporting
13	**DANILO**	(24) 09.09.91	Porto
15	Andre **GOMES**	(22) 30.07.93	Valencia (Spa)
10	**JOAO MARIO**	(23) 19.01.93	Sporting
8	Joao **MOUTINHO**	(29) 08.09.86	Monaco (Fra)
16	Renato **SANCHES**	(18) 18.08.97	Benfica
23	Adrien **SILVA**	(27) 15.03.89	Sporting
18	Rafa **SILVA**	(23) 17.05.93	Braga
11	**VIEIRINHA**	(30) 24.01.86	Wolfsburg (Ger)

FORWARDS

9	**EDER**	(28) 22.12.87	Lille (Fra)
17	**NANI**	(29) 17.11.86	Fenerbahce (Tur)
20	Ricardo **QUARESMA**	(32) 26.09.83	Besiktas (Tur)
7	Cristiano **RONALDO**	(31) 05.02.85	Real Madrid (Spa)

COACH

Fernando **SANTOS**	(61) 10.10.54	

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

GOALKEEPERS

16	Shay **GIVEN**	(40) 20.04.76	Stoke City (Eng)
23	Darren **RANDOLPH**	(29) 12.05.87	West Ham United (Eng)
1	Keiren **WESTWOOD**	(31) 23.10.84	Sheffield Wednesday (Eng)

DEFENDERS

15	Cyrus **CHRISTIE**	(23) 30.09.92	Derby County (Eng)
3	Ciaran **CLARK**	(26) 26.09.89	Aston Villa (Eng)
2	Seamus **COLEMAN**	(27) 11.10.88	Everton (Eng)
12	Shane **DUFFY**	(24) 01.01.92	Blackburn Rovers (Eng)
5	Richard **KEOGH**	(29) 11.08.86	Derby County (Eng)
4	John **O'SHEA**	(35) 30.04.81	Sunderland (Eng)
17	Stephen **WARD**	(30) 20.08.85	Burnley (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

19	Robbie **BRADY**	(24) 14.01.92	Norwich City (Eng)
13	Jeff **HENDRICK**	(24) 31.01.92	Derby County (Eng)
20	Wes **HOOLAHAN**	(34) 20.05.82	Norwich City (Eng)
8	James **McCARTHY**	(25) 12.11.90	Everton (Eng)
11	James **McCLEAN**	(27) 22.04.89	West Brom (Eng)
7	Aiden **McGEADY**	(30) 04.04.86	Everton (Eng)
18	David **MEYLER**	(27) 29.05.89	Hull City (Eng)
22	Stephen **QUINN**	(30) 04.04.86	Reading (Eng)
6	Glenn **WHELAN**	(32) 13.01.84	Stoke City (Eng)

FORWARDS

10	Robbie **KEANE**	(35) 08.07.80	LA Galaxy (USA)
9	Shane **LONG**	(29) 22.01.87	Southampton (Eng)
21	Daryl **MURPHY**	(33) 15.03.83	Ipswich Town (Eng)
14	Jonathan **WALTERS**	(32) 20.09.83	Stoke City (Eng)

MANAGER

Martin **O'NEILL** (NI)	(64) 01.03.52	

ROMANIA

GOALKEEPERS

23	Silviu **LUNG**	(27) 04.06.89	Astra Giurgiu
1	Costel **PANTILIMON**	(29) 01.02.87	Watford (Eng)
12	Ciprian **TATARUSANU**	(30) 09.02.86	Fiorentina (Ita)

DEFENDERS

6	Vlad **CHIRICHES**	(26) 14.11.89	Napoli (Ita)
16	Steliano **FILIP**	(22) 15.05.94	Dinamo Bucharest
15	Valerica **GAMAN**	(27) 25.02.89	Astra Giurgiu
21	Dragos **GRIGORE**	(29) 07.09.86	Al Sailiya (Qat)
2	Alexandru **MATEL**	(26) 17.10.89	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
4	Cosmin **MOTI**	(31) 03.12.84	Ludogorets (Bul)
3	Razvan **RAT**	(35) 26.05.81	Rayo Vallecano (Spa)
22	Cristian **SAPUNARU**	(32) 05.04.84	Pandurii Targu Jiu

MIDFIELDERS

7	Alexandru **CHIPCIU**	(27) 18.05.89	Steaua Bucharest
5	Ovidiu **HOBAN**	(33) 27.12.82	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (Isr)
8	Mihai **PINTILII**	(31) 09.11.84	Steaua Bucharest
20	Adrian **POPA**	(27) 24.07.88	Steaua Bucharest
18	Andrei **PREPELITA**	(30) 08.12.85	Ludogorets (Bul)
17	Lucian **SANMARTEAN**	(36) 13.03.80	Al Ittihad (Sau)
10	Nicolae **STANCIU**	(23) 07.05.93	Steaua Bucharest
11	Gabriel **TORJE**	(26) 22.11.89	Udinese (Ita)

FORWARDS

9	Denis **ALIBEC**	(25) 05.01.91	Astra Giurgiu
14	Florin **ANDONE**	(23) 11.04.93	Cordoba (Spa)
13	Claudiu **KESERU**	(29) 02.12.86	Ludogorets (Bul)
19	Bogdan **STANCU**	(28) 28.06.87	Genclerbirligi (Tur)

COACH

Anghel **IORDANESCU**	(66) 04.05.50	

RUSSIA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Igor **AKINFEEV**	(30) 08.04.86	CSKA Moscow
16	**GUILHERME**	(30) 12.12.85	Lokomotiv Moscow
12	Yuri **LODYGIN**	(26) 26.05.90	Zenit
DEFENDERS			
6	Aleksei **BEREZUTSKI**	(33) 20.06.82	CSKA Moscow
14	Vasili **BEREZUTSKI**	(33) 20.06.82	CSKA Moscow
4	Sergei **IGNASHEVICH**	(36) 14.07.79	CSKA Moscow
23	Dmitri **KOMBAROV**	(29) 22.01.87	Spartak Moscow
5	Roman **NEUSTADTER**	(28) 18.02.88	Schalke (Ger)
21	Georgi **SCHENNIKOV**	(25) 27.04.91	CSKA Moscow
2	Roman **SHISHKIN**	(29) 27.01.87	Lokomotiv Moscow
3	Igor **SMOLNIKOV**	(27) 08.08.88	Zenit
MIDFIELDERS			
8	Denis **GLUSHAKOV**	(29) 27.01.87	Spartak Moscow
13	Aleksandr **GOLOVIN**	(20) 30.05.96	CSKA Moscow
18	Oleg **IVANOV**	(29) 04.08.86	Terek Grozny
11	Pavel **MAMAEV**	(27) 17.09.88	Krasnodar
19	Aleksandr **SAMEDOV**	(31) 19.07.84	Lokomotiv Moscow
17	Oleg **SHATOV**	(25) 29.06.90	Zenit
15	Roman **SHIROKOV**	(34) 06.07.81	CSKA Moscow
20	Dmitri **TORBINSKI**	(32) 28.04.84	Krasnodar
7	Artur **YUSUPOV**	(26) 01.09.89	Zenit
FORWARDS			
22	Artem **DZYUBA**	(27) 22.08.88	Zenit
9	Aleksandr **KOKORIN**	(25) 19.03.91	Zenit
10	Fyodor **SMOLOV**	(26) 05.02.90	Krasnodar
COACH			
Leonid **SLUTSKY**		(45) 04.05.71	

SLOVAKIA

GOALKEEPERS			
23	Matus **KOZACIK**	(32) 27.12.83	Viktoria Plzen (CzR)
1	Jan **MUCHA**	(33) 05.12.82	Slovan Bratislava
12	Jan **NOVOTA**	(32) 29.11.83	Rapid Vienna (Aut)
DEFENDERS			
4	Jan **DURICA**	(34) 10.12.81	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
5	Norbert **GYOMBER**	(23) 03.07.92	Roma (Ita)
15	Tomas **HUBOCAN**	(30) 17.09.85	Dynamo Moscow (Rus)
2	Peter **PEKARIK**	(29) 30.10.86	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
16	Kornel **SALATA**	(31) 24.01.85	Slovan Bratislava
14	Milan **SKRINIAR**	(21) 11.02.95	Sampdoria (Ita)
3	Martin **SKRTEL**	(31) 15.12.84	Liverpool (Eng)
18	Dusan **SVENTO**	(30) 01.08.85	Cologne (Ger)
MIDFIELDERS			
8	Ondrej **DUDA**	(21) 05.12.94	Legia Warsaw (Pol)
6	Jan **GREGUS**	(25) 29.01.91	Baumit Jablonec (CzR)
17	Marek **HAMSIK**	(28) 27.07.87	Napoli (Ita)
13	Patrik **HROSOVSKY**	(24) 22.04.92	Viktoria Plzen (CzR)
19	Juraj **KUCKA**	(29) 26.02.87	Milan (Ita)
20	Robert **MAK**	(25) 08.03.91	PAOK (Gre)
22	Viktor **PECOVSKY**	(33) 24.05.83	Zilina
10	Miroslav **STOCH**	(26) 19.10.89	Fenerbahce (Tur)
7	Vladimir **WEISS**	(26) 30.11.89	Al Gharafa (Qat)
FORWARDS			
21	Michal **DURIS**	(28) 01.06.88	Viktoria Plzen (CzR)
11	Adam **NEMEC**	(30) 02.09.85	Willem II (Hol)
9	Stanislav **SESTAK**	(33) 16.12.82	Ferencvaros (Hun)
COACH			
Jan **KOZAK**		(62) 17.04.54	

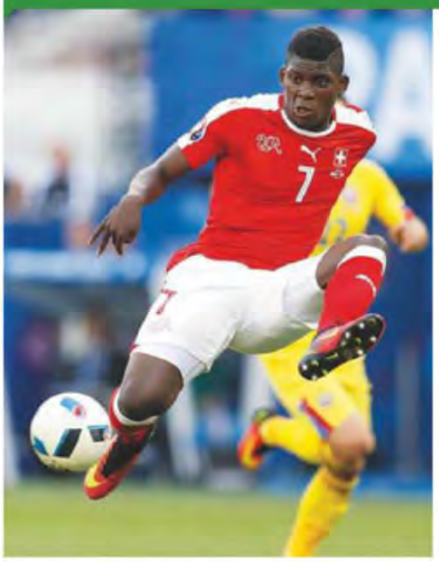
SPAIN

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Iker **CASILLAS**	(35) 20.05.81	Porto (Por)
13	David **DE GEA**	(25) 07.11.90	Manchester United (Eng)
23	Sergio **RICO**	(22) 01.09.93	Sevilla
DEFENDERS			
18	Jordi **ALBA**	(27) 21.03.89	Barcelona
2	Cesar **AZPILICUETA**	(26) 28.08.89	Chelsea (Eng)
4	Marc **BARTRA**	(25) 15.01.91	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
12	Hector **BELLERIN**	(21) 19.03.95	Arsenal (Eng)
16	**JUANFRAN**	(31) 09.01.85	Atletico Madrid
3	Gerard **PIQUE**	(29) 02.02.87	Barcelona
15	Sergio **RAMOS**	(30) 30.03.86	Real Madrid
17	Mikel **SAN JOSE**	(27) 30.05.89	Athletic Bilbao
MIDFIELDERS			
19	**BRUNO** Soriano	(31) 12.06.84	Villarreal
5	Sergio **BUSQUETS**	(27) 16.07.88	Barcelona
10	Cesc **FABREGAS**	(29) 04.05.87	Chelsea (Eng)
6	Andres **INIESTA**	(32) 11.05.84	Barcelona
8	**KOKE**	(24) 08.01.92	Atletico Madrid
21	David **SILVA**	(30) 08.01.86	Manchester City (Eng)
14	**THIAGO**	(25) 11.04.91	Bayern Munich (Ger)
FORWARDS			
20	Aritz **ADURIZ**	(35) 11.02.81	Athletic Bilbao
7	Alvaro **MORATA**	(23) 23.10.92	Juventus (Ita)
22	**NOLITO**	(29) 15.10.86	Celta Vigo
11	**PEDRO**	(28) 28.07.87	Chelsea (Eng)
9	Lucas **VAZQUEZ**	(24) 01.07.91	Real Madrid
COACH			
Vicente **DEL BOSQUE**		(65) 23.12.50	

SWEDEN

GOALKEEPERS			
23	Patrik **CARLGREN**	(24) 08.01.92	AIK
1	Andreas **ISAKSSON**	(34) 03.10.81	Kasimpasa (Tur)
12	Robin **OLSEN**	(26) 08.01.90	Copenhagen (Den)
DEFENDERS			
17	Ludwig **AUGUSTINSSON**	(22) 21.04.94	Copenhagen (Den)
4	Andreas **GRANQVIST**	(31) 16.04.85	Krasnodar (Rus)
13	Pontus **JANSSON**	(25) 13.02.91	Torino (Ita)
3	Erik **JOHANSSON**	(27) 30.12.88	Copenhagen (Den)
14	Victor **LINDELOF**	(21) 17.07.94	Benfica (Por)
2	Mikael **LUSTIG**	(29) 13.12.86	Celtic (Sco)
5	Martin **OLSSON**	(28) 17.05.88	Norwich City (Eng)
MIDFIELDERS			
21	Jimmy **DURMAZ**	(27) 22.03.89	Olympiakos (Gre)
8	Albin **EKDAL**	(26) 28.07.89	Hamburg (Ger)
6	Emil **FORSBERG**	(24) 23.10.91	RB Leipzig (Ger)
15	Oscar **HILJEMARK**	(23) 28.06.92	Palermo (Ita)
9	Kim **KALLSTROM**	(33) 24.08.82	Grasshoppers (Swi)
7	Sebastian **LARSSON**	(31) 06.06.85	Sunderland (Eng)
18	Oscar **LEWICKI**	(23) 14.07.92	Malmo
16	Pontus **WERNBLOOM**	(29) 25.06.86	CSKA Moscow (Rus)
22	Erkan **ZENGIN**	(30) 05.08.85	Trabzonspor (Tur)
FORWARDS			
11	Marcus **BERG**	(29) 17.08.86	Panathinaikos (Gre)
20	John **GUIDETTI**	(24) 15.04.92	Celta Vigo (Spa)
10	Zlatan **IBRAHIMOVIC**	(34) 03.10.81	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
19	Emir **KUJOVIC**	(27) 22.06.88	IFK Norrkoping
COACH			
Erik **HAMREN**		(58) 27.06.57	

SWITZERLAND



Talent...Breel Embolo has now joined Schalke from Basle

GOALKEEPERS			
21	Roman **BURKI**	(25) 14.11.90	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
12	Marwin **HITZ**	(28) 18.09.87	Augsburg (Ger)
1	Yann **SOMMER**	(27) 07.12.88	Borussia M'gladbach (Ger)
DEFENDERS			
20	Johan **DJOUROU**	(29) 18.01.87	Hamburg (Ger)
4	Nico **ELVEDI**	(19) 30.09.96	Borussia M'gladbach (Ger)
6	Michael **LANG**	(25) 08.02.91	Basle
2	Stephan **LICHTSTEINER**	(32) 16.01.84	Juventus (Ita)
3	Francois **MOUBANDJE**	(25) 21.06.90	Toulouse (Fra)
13	Ricardo **RODRIGUEZ**	(23) 25.08.92	Wolfsburg (Ger)
22	Fabian **SCHAR**	(24) 20.12.91	Hoffenheim (Ger)
5	Steve **VON BERGEN**	(33) 10.06.83	Young Boys
MIDFIELDERS			
11	Valon **BEHRAMI**	(31) 19.04.85	Watford (Eng)
15	Blerim **DZEMAILI**	(30) 12.04.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
16	Gelson **FERNANDES**	(29) 02.09.86	Rennes (Fra)
8	Fabian **FREI**	(27) 08.01.89	Mainz (Ger)
23	Xherdan **SHAQIRI**	(24) 10.10.91	Stoke City (Eng)
10	Granit **XHAKA**	(23) 27.09.92	Arsenal (Eng)
14	Denis **ZAKARIA**	(19) 20.11.96	Young Boys
FORWARDS			
19	Eren **DERDIYOK**	(27) 12.06.88	Kasimpasa (Tur)
7	Breel **EMBOLO**	(19) 14.02.97	Basle
18	Admir **MEHMEDI**	(25) 16.03.91	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
9	Haris **SEFEROVIC**	(24) 22.02.92	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
17	Shani **TARASHAJ**	(21) 07.02.95	Everton (Eng)
COACH			
Vladimir **PETKOVIC** (Bos)		(52) 15.08.63	

TURKEY

GOALKEEPERS			
23	**HARUN TEKIN**	(26) 17.06.89	Bursaspor
12	**ONUR KIVRAK**	(28) 01.01.88	Trabzonspor
1	**VOLKAN BABACAN**	(27) 12.08.88	Istanbul BB
DEFENDERS			
4	**AHMET YILMAZ CALIK**	(21) 22.06.94	Genclerbirligi
7	**GOKHAN GONUL**	(31) 04.01.85	Fenerbahce
3	**HAKAN BALTA**	(33) 23.03.83	Galatasaray
13	**ISMAIL KOYBASI**	(26) 10.07.89	Besiktas
2	**SEMIH KAYA**	(25) 24.02.91	Galatasaray
22	**SENER OZBAYRAKLI**	(26) 23.01.90	Fenerbahce
MIDFIELDERS			
10	**ARDA TURAN**	(29) 30.01.87	Barcelona (Spa)
6	Hakan **CALHANOGLU**	(22) 08.02.94	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
18	**CANER ERKIN**	(27) 04.10.88	Fenerbahce
15	**MEHMET TOPAL**	(30) 03.03.86	Fenerbahce
14	**OGUZHAN OZYAKUP**	(23) 23.09.92	Besiktas
11	**OLCAY SAHAN**	(29) 26.05.87	Besiktas
16	**OZAN TUFAN**	(21) 23.03.95	Fenerbahce
5	Nuri **SAHIN**	(27) 05.09.88	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
8	**SELCUK INAN**	(31) 10.02.85	Galatasaray
20	**VOLKAN SEN**	(28) 07.07.87	Fenerbahce
19	**YUNUS MALLI**	(24) 24.02.92	Mainz (Ger)
FORWARDS			
17	**BURAK YILMAZ**	(30) 15.07.85	Beijing Guoan (Chn)
9	**CENK TOSUN**	(25) 07.06.91	Besiktas
21	Emre **MOR**	(18) 24.07.97	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
COACH			
Fatih **TERIM**		(62) 04.09.53	

UKRAINE

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Denys **BOYKO**	(28) 29.01.88	Besiktas (Tur)
12	Andriy **PYATOV**	(31) 28.06.84	Shakhtar Donetsk
23	Mykyta **SHEVCHENKO**	(23) 26.01.93	Shakhtar Donetsk
DEFENDERS			
2	Bohdan **BUTKO**	(25) 13.01.91	Shakhtar Donetsk
17	Artem **FEDETSKIY**	(31) 26.04.85	Dnipro
3	Yevhen **KHACHERIDI**	(28) 28.07.87	Dynamo Kiev
5	Oleksandr **KUCHER**	(33) 22.10.82	Shakhtar Donetsk
20	Yaroslav **RAKITSKIY**	(26) 03.08.89	Shakhtar Donetsk
13	Vyacheslav **SHEVCHUK**	(37) 13.05.79	Shakhtar Donetsk
MIDFIELDERS			
19	Denys **GARMASH**	(26) 19.04.90	Dynamo Kiev
22	Oleksandr **KARAVAYEV**	(24) 02.06.92	Shakhtar Donetsk
10	Yevhen **KONOPLYANKA**	(26) 29.09.89	Sevilla (Spa)
9	Viktor **KOVALENKO**	(20) 14.02.96	Shakhtar Donetsk
14	Ruslan **ROTAN**	(34) 29.10.81	Dnipro
18	Serhiy **RYBALKA**	(26) 01.04.90	Dynamo Kiev
6	Taras **STEPANENKO**	(26) 08.08.89	Shakhtar Donetsk
16	Serhiy **SYDORCHUK**	(25) 02.05.91	Dynamo Kiev
4	Anatoliy **TYMOSHCHUK**	(37) 30.03.79	Kairat Almaty (Kaz)
7	Andriy **YARMOLENKO**	(26) 23.10.89	Dynamo Kiev
21	Oleksandr **ZINCHENKO**	(19) 15.12.96	Ufa (Rus)
FORWARDS			
15	Pylyp **BUDKIVSKYI**	(24) 10.03.92	Shakhtar Donetsk
11	Yevhen **SELEZNYOV**	(30) 20.07.85	Kuban Krasnodar (Rus)
8	Roman **ZOZULYA**	(26) 17.11.89	Dnipro
COACH			
Mykhaylo **FOMENKO**		(67) 19.09.48	

WALES

GOALKEEPERS			
12	Owain **FON WILLIAMS**	(29) 17.03.87	Inverness CT (Sco)
1	Wayne **HENNESSEY**	(29) 24.01.87	Crystal Palace (Eng)
21	Danny **WARD**	(22) 22.06.93	Liverpool (Eng)
DEFENDERS			
5	James **CHESTER**	(27) 23.01.89	West Brom (Eng)
19	James **COLLINS**	(32) 23.08.83	West Ham United (Eng)
4	Ben **DAVIES**	(23) 24.04.93	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
2	Chris **GUNTER**	(26) 21.07.89	Reading (Eng)
15	Jazz **RICHARDS**	(25) 12.04.91	Fulham (Eng)
3	Neil **TAYLOR**	(27) 07.02.89	Swansea City (Eng)
6	Ashley **WILLIAMS**	(31) 23.08.84	Swansea City (Eng)
MIDFIELDERS			
7	Joe **ALLEN**	(26) 14.03.90	Liverpool (Eng)
14	David **EDWARDS**	(30) 03.02.86	Wolves (Eng)
8	Andy **KING**	(27) 29.10.88	Leicester City (Eng)
16	Joe **LEDLEY**	(29) 23.01.87	Crystal Palace (Eng)
10	Aaron **RAMSEY**	(25) 26.12.90	Arsenal (Eng)
22	David **VAUGHAN**	(33) 18.02.83	Nottingham Forest (Eng)
20	Jonny **WILLIAMS**	(22) 09.10.93	Crystal Palace (Eng)
FORWARDS			
11	Gareth **BALE**	(26) 16.07.89	Real Madrid (Spa)
23	Simon **CHURCH**	(27) 10.12.88	MK Dons (Eng)
17	David **COTTERILL**	(28) 04.12.87	Birmingham City (Eng)
9	Hal **ROBSON-KANU**	(27) 21.05.89	Reading (Eng)
18	Sam **VOKES**	(26) 21.10.89	Burnley (Eng)
13	George **WILLIAMS**	(20) 07.09.95	Fulham (Eng)
COACH			
Chris **COLEMAN**		(46) 10.06.70	

(ages as of 10.06.16)

COPA AMERICA 2016

ARGENTINA

GOALKEEPERS

23	Mariano **ANDUJAR**	(32) 30.07.83	Napoli (Ita)
12	Nahuel **GUZMAN**	(30) 10.02.86	Tiges (Mex)
1	Sergio **ROMERO**	(29) 22.02.87	Manchester United (Eng)

DEFENDERS

15	Victor **CUESTA**	(27) 19.11.88	Independiente
13	Ramiro **FUNES MORI**	(25) 05.03.91	Everton (Eng)
2	Jonathan **MAIDANA**	(30) 29.07.85	River Plate
4	Gabriel **MERCADO**	(29) 18.03.87	River Plate
17	Nicolas **OTAMENDI**	(28) 12.02.88	Manchester City (Eng)
16	Marcos **ROJO**	(26) 20.03.90	Manchester United (Eng)
3	Facundo **RONCAGLIA**	(29) 10.02.87	Fiorentina (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

19	Ever **BANEGA**	(27) 29.06.88	Sevilla (Spa)
6	Lucas **BIGLIA**	(30) 30.01.86	Lazio (Ita)
7	Angel **DI MARIA**	(28) 14.02.88	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
8	Augusto **FERNANDEZ**	(30) 10.04.86	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
20	Nicolas **GAITAN**	(28) 23.02.88	Benfica (Por)
5	Matias **KRANEVITTER**	(23) 21.05.93	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
18	Erik **LAMELA**	(24) 04.03.92	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
14	Javier **MASCHERANO**	(31) 08.06.84	Barcelona (Spa)
21	Javier **PASTORE**	(26) 20.06.89	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

FORWARDS

11	Sergio **AGUERO**	(28) 02.06.88	Manchester City (Eng)
9	Gonzalo **HIGUAIN**	(28) 10.12.87	Napoli (Ita)
22	Ezequiel **LAVEZZI**	(31) 03.05.85	Hebei China Fortune (Chn)
10	Lionel **MESSI**	(28) 24.06.87	Barcelona (Spa)

COACH

Gerardo **MARTINO** (53) 20.11.62

BOLIVIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Carlos **LAMPE**	(29) 17.03.87	Sport Boys
12	Romel **QUINONEZ**	(23) 25.06.92	Bolivar
23	Guillermo **VIZCARRA**	(23) 07.02.93	Vitoria (Bra)

DEFENDERS

4	Diego **BEJARANO**	(24) 24.08.91	Panetolikos (Gre)
17	Marvin **BEJARANO**	(28) 06.03.88	Oriente Petrolero
5	Nelson **CABRERA**	(33) 22.04.83	Bolivar
21	Ronald **EGUINO**	(28) 20.02.88	Bolivar
3	Luis Alberto **GUTIERREZ**	(31) 10.03.85	Ironi Kiryat Shmona (Isr)
2	Erwin **SAAVEDRA**	(20) 25.02.96	Bolivar
22	Edward **ZENTENO**	(31) 05.12.84	Jorge Wilstermann

MIDFIELDERS

15	Pedro **AZOGUE**	(21) 06.12.94	Oriente Petrolero
10	Jhasmani **CAMPOS**	(28) 10.05.88	Kazma (Kuw)
14	Raul **CASTRO**	(26) 19.08.89	The Strongest
19	Samuel **GALINDO**	(24) 18.04.92	Oriente Petrolero
16	Cristhian **MACHADO**	(25) 20.06.90	Jorge Wilstermann
13	Alejandro **MELEAN**	(28) 16.06.87	Oriente Petrolero
20	Fernando **SAUCEDO**	(26) 15.03.90	Jorge Wilstermann
8	Martin **SMEDBERG-DALENCE**	(32) 10.05.84	IFK G'burg (Swe)
6	Walter **VEIZAGA**	(30) 22.04.86	The Strongest

FORWARDS

11	Gilbert **ALVAREZ**	(24) 07.04.92	Real Potosi
7	Juan Carlos **ARCE**	(31) 10.04.85	Bolivar
9	Yasmani **DUK**	(28) 01.03.88	Sport Boys
18	Rodrigo **RAMALLO**	(25) 14.10.90	The Strongest

COACH

Julio Cesar **BALDIVIESO** (44) 02.12.71

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS

1	**ALISSON**	(23) 02.10.92	Internacional
12	Diego **ALVES**	(30) 24.06.85	Valencia (Spa)
23	Marcelo **GROHE**	(29) 13.01.87	Gremio

DEFENDERS

2	Dani **ALVES**	(33) 06.05.83	Barcelona (Spa)
14	Rodrigo **CAIO**	(22) 17.08.93	Sao Paulo
16	**DOUGLAS SANTOS**	(22) 22.03.94	Atletico Mineiro
15	**FABINHO**	(22) 23.10.93	Monaco (Fra)
4	**GIL**	(28) 12.06.87	Shandong Luneng (Chn)
6	Filipe **LUIS**	(30) 09.08.85	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
13	**MARQUINHOS**	(22) 14.05.94	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
3	**MIRANDA**	(31) 07.09.84	Internazionale (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

18	Renato **AUGUSTO**	(28) 08.02.88	Beijing Guoan (Chn)
5	**CASEMIRO**	(24) 23.02.92	Real Madrid (Spa)
22	Philippe **COUTINHO**	(23) 12.06.92	Liverpool (Eng)
8	**ELIAS**	(31) 16.05.85	Corinthians
7	Paulo Henrique **GANSO**	(26) 12.10.89	Sao Paulo
10	**LUCAS LIMA**	(25) 09.07.90	Santos
20	**LUCAS MOURA**	(23) 13.08.92	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
17	**WALACE**	(21) 04.04.95	Gremio
19	**WILLIAN**	(27) 09.08.88	Chelsea (Eng)

FORWARDS

11	**GABRIEL**	(19) 30.08.96	Santos
21	**HULK**	(29) 25.07.86	Zenit (Rus)
9	**JONAS**	(32) 01.04.84	Benfica (Por)

COACH

DUNGA (52) 31.10.63

CHILE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Claudio **BRAVO**	(33) 13.04.83	Barcelona (Spa)
23	Johnny **HERRERA**	(35) 09.05.81	Universidad de Chile
12	Cristopher **TOSELLI**	(27) 22.06.88	Universidad Catolica

DEFENDERS

15	Jean **BEAUSEJOUR**	(32) 03.06.84	Colo Colo
6	Jose Pedro **FUENZALIDA**	(31) 22.02.85	Universidad Catolica
4	Mauricio **ISLA**	(27) 12.06.88	Juventus (Ita)
18	Gonzalo **JARA**	(30) 29.08.85	Universidad de Chile
17	Gary **MEDEL**	(28) 03.08.87	Internazionale (Ita)
2	Eugenio **MENA**	(27) 18.07.88	Cruzeiro (Bra)
3	Enzo **ROCO**	(23) 16.08.92	Espanyol (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

20	Charles **ARANGUIZ**	(27) 17.04.89	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
21	Marcelo **DIAZ**	(29) 30.12.86	Celta Vigo (Spa)
10	Pablo **HERNANDEZ**	(29) 24.10.86	Celta Vigo (Spa)
13	Erick **PULGAR**	(22) 15.01.94	Bologna (Ita)
5	Francisco **SILVA**	(30) 11.02.86	Cruz Azul (Mex)
8	Arturo **VIDAL**	(29) 22.05.87	Bayern Munich (Ger)

FORWARDS

16	Nicolas **CASTILLO**	(23) 14.02.93	Club Brugge (Blg)
14	Mark **GONZALEZ**	(31) 10.07.84	Sport (Bra)
19	Fabian **ORELLANA**	(30) 27.01.86	Celta Vigo (Spa)
9	Mauricio **PINILLA**	(32) 04.02.84	Atalanta (Ita)
22	Edson **PUCH**	(30) 09.04.86	LDU Quito (Ecu)
7	Alexis **SANCHEZ**	(27) 19.12.88	Arsenal (Eng)
11	Eduardo **VARGAS**	(26) 20.11.89	Hoffenheim (Ger)

COACH

Juan Antonio **PIZZI** (Spa) (47) 07.06.68

COLOMBIA

Leading light...Colombia's James Rodriguez

GOALKEEPERS

23	Cristian **BONILLA**	(23) 02.06.93	Atletico Nacional
1	David **OSPINA**	(27) 31.08.88	Arsenal (Eng)
12	Robinson **ZAPATA**	(37) 30.09.78	Santa Fe

DEFENDERS

14	Felipe **AGUILAR**	(23) 20.01.93	Atletico Nacional
4	Santiago **ARIAS**	(24) 13.01.92	PSV (Hol)
19	Farid **DIAZ**	(32) 20.07.83	Atletico Nacional
18	Frank **FABRA**	(25) 22.02.91	Boca Juniors (Arg)
15	Stefan **MEDINA**	(23) 14.06.92	Monterrey (Mex)
3	Yerry **MINA**	(21) 23.09.94	Palmeiras (Bra)
22	Jeison **MURILLO**	(24) 27.05.92	Internazionale (Ita)
2	Cristian **ZAPATA**	(29) 30.09.86	Milan (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

8	Edwin **CARDONA**	(23) 08.12.92	Monterrey (Mex)
5	Guillermo **CELIS**	(23) 08.05.93	Junior
11	Juan **CUADRADO**	(28) 26.05.88	Chelsea (Eng)
13	Sebastian **PEREZ**	(23) 29.03.93	Atletico Nacional
20	Andres Felipe **ROA**	(23) 25.05.93	Deportivo Cali
10	James **RODRIGUEZ**	(24) 12.07.91	Real Madrid (Spa)
6	Carlos **SANCHEZ**	(30) 06.02.86	Aston Villa (Eng)
16	Daniel **TORRES**	(26) 15.11.89	Independiente Medellin

FORWARDS

7	Carlos **BACCA**	(29) 08.09.86	Milan (Ita)
9	Roger **MARTINEZ**	(21) 23.06.94	Racing (Arg)
17	Dayro **MORENO**	(30) 16.09.85	Tijuana (Mex)
21	Marlos **MORENO**	(19) 20.09.96	Atletico Nacional

COACH

Jose **PEKERMAN** (Arg) (66) 03.09.49

COSTA RICA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Danny **CARVAJAL**	(27) 08.01.89	Deportivo Saprissa
23	Leonel **MOREIRA**	(26) 04.04.90	Herediano
18	Patrick **PEMBERTON**	(34) 24.05.82	Alajuelense

DEFENDERS

2	Johnny **ACOSTA**	(32) 21.07.83	Alajuelense
3	Francisco **CALVO**	(23) 08.07.92	Deportivo Saprissa
6	Oscar **DUARTE**	(27) 03.06.89	Espanyol (Spa)
16	Cristian **GAMBOA**	(26) 24.10.89	West Brom (Eng)
22	Ronald **MATARRITA**	(21) 09.07.94	New York City (USA)
8	Bryan **OVIEDO**	(26) 18.02.90	Everton (Eng)
15	Jose **SALVATIERRA**	(26) 10.10.89	Alajuelense
4	Michael **UMANA**	(33) 16.07.82	Persepolis (Irn)
19	Kendall **WASTON**	(28) 01.01.88	Vancouver W'caps (USA)

MIDFIELDERS

14	Randall **AZOFEIFA**	(31) 30.12.84	Herediano
7	Christian **BOLANOS**	(32) 30.05.84	Vancouver W'caps (USA)
5	Celso **BORGES**	(28) 27.05.88	Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
13	Oscar **GRANADOS**	(30) 25.10.85	Herediano
17	Yeltsin **TEJEDA**	(24) 17.03.92	Evian (Fra)
11	Johan **VENEGAS**	(27) 27.11.88	Montreal Impact (USA)

FORWARDS

12	Joel **CAMPBELL**	(23) 26.06.92	Arsenal (Eng)
10	Bryan **RUIZ**	(30) 18.08.85	Sporting (Por)
9	Alvaro **SABORIO**	(34) 22.03.82	DC United (USA)
21	Marco **URENA**	(26) 05.03.90	Midtjylland (Den)
20	Johnny **WOODLY**	(35) 27.07.80	Alajuelense

COACH

Oscar **RAMIREZ** (51) 08.12.64

ECUADOR

GOALKEEPERS

1	Maximo **BANGUERA**	(30) 16.12.85	Barcelona
22	Alexander **DOMINGUEZ**	(28) 05.06.87	LDU Quito
12	Esteban **DREER**	(34) 11.11.81	Emelec

DEFENDERS

21	Gabriel **ACHILIER**	(31) 23.03.85	Emelec
20	Robert **ARBOLEDA**	(24) 22.10.91	Universidad Catolica
10	Walter **AYOVI**	(36) 11.08.79	Monterrey (Mex)
3	Frickson **ERAZO**	(28) 05.05.88	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
2	Arturo **MINA**	(25) 08.10.90	Independiente del Valle
4	Juan Carlos **PAREDES**	(28) 08.07.87	Watford (Eng)
5	Cristian **RAMIREZ**	(21) 12.08.94	Ferencvaros (Hun)

MIDFIELDERS

11	Michael **ARROYO**	(29) 23.04.87	America (Mex)
8	Fernando **GAIBOR**	(24) 08.11.91	Emelec
18	Carlos **GRUEZO**	(21) 19.04.95	Dallas (USA)
15	Pedro **LARREA**	(30) 21.05.86	El Nacional
9	Fidel **MARTINEZ**	(26) 15.02.90	Pumas (Mex)
14	Angel **MENA**	(28) 21.01.88	Emelec
7	Jefferson **MONTERO**	(26) 01.09.89	Swansea City (Eng)
6	Christian **NOBOA**	(31) 09.04.85	Rostov (Rus)
16	Antonio **VALENCIA**	(30) 04.08.85	Manchester United (Eng)

FORWARDS

17	Jaime **AYOVI**	(28) 21.02.88	Godoy Cruz (Arg)
23	Miller **BOLANOS**	(26) 01.06.90	Gremio (Bra)
19	Juan **CAZARES**	(24) 03.04.92	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
13	Enner **VALENCIA**	(26) 04.11.89	West Ham United (Eng)

COACH

Gustavo **QUINTEROS** (Bol) (51) 15.02.65

HAITI

GOALKEEPERS

12	Steward **CEUS**	(29) 26.03.87	Minnesota United (USA)
23	Luis Valendi **ODELUS**	(21) 01.12.94	Aigle Noir
1	Johnny **PLACIDE**	(27) 21.01.89	Reims (Fra)

DEFENDERS

2	Jean **ALCENAT**	(30) 23.01.86	Steaua Bucharest (Rom)
18	Judelin **AVESKA**	(28) 21.10.87	Atletico Uruguay (Arg)
22	Alex Junior **CHRISTIAN**	(22) 05.12.93	Boavista (Por)
5	Romain **GENEVOIS**	(28) 28.10.87	Nice (Fra)
8	Reginal **GOREUX**	(28) 31.12.87	Standard Liege (Blg)
4	Kim **JAGGY**	(33) 14.11.82	Aarau (Swi)
3	Mechack **JEROME**	(26) 21.04.90	Jacksonville Armada (USA)
6	Stephane **LAMBESE**	(21) 10.05.95	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS

16	Jean **ALEXANDRE**	(29) 24.08.86	Fort Lauderdale Strikers (USA)
19	Max **HILAIRE**	(30) 06.12.85	Cholet (Fra)
13	Kevin **LAFRANCE**	(26) 13.01.90	Chrobry Glogow (Pol)
14	James **MARCELIN**	(29) 13.06.86	Carolina RailHawks (USA)
11	Pascal **MILLIEN**	(30) 03.05.86	Jacksonville Armada (USA)
17	Soni **MUSTIVAR**	(26) 12.02.90	Sporting Kansas City (USA)
15	Sony **NORDE**	(26) 27.07.89	Mohun Bagan (Ind)

FORWARDS

9	Kervens **BELFORT**	(24) 16.05.92	1461 Trabzon (Tur)
7	Wilde-Donald **GUERRIER**	(27) 31.03.89	Wisla Krakow (Pol)
10	Jeff **LOUIS**	(23) 08.08.92	Caen (Fra)
21	Jean-Eudes **MAURICE**	(29) 21.06.86	Sai Gon (Vie)
20	Duckens **NAZON**	(22) 17.04.94	Laval (Fra)

COACH

Patrice **NEVEU** (Fra) (62) 29.03.54

JAMAICA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Andre **BLAKE**	(25) 21.11.90	Philadelphia Union (USA)
13	Duwayne **KERR**	(29) 16.02.87	Stjarnan (Ice)
23	Ryan **THOMPSON**	(31) 07.01.85	Saint Louis (USA)

DEFENDERS

5	Rosario **HARRIOTT**	(26) 26.09.89	Harbour View
3	Michael **HECTOR**	(23) 19.07.92	Chelsea (Eng)
20	Kemar **LAWRENCE**	(23) 17.09.92	New York Red Bulls (USA)
19	Adrian **MARIAPPA**	(29) 03.10.86	Crystal Palace (Eng)
4	Wes **MORGAN**	(32) 21.01.84	Leicester City (Eng)
2	Damano **SOLOMON**	(21) 13.10.94	Portmore United
21	Jermaine **TAYLOR**	(31) 14.01.85	Portland Timbers (USA)

MIDFIELDERS

17	Rodolph **AUSTIN**	(31) 01.06.85	Brondby (Den)
12	Michael **BINNS**	(27) 12.08.88	Portmore Unitedw
18	Joel **GRANT**	(28) 26.08.87	Exeter City (Eng)
7	Chevone **MARSH**	(22) 25.02.94	Cavalier
10	Jobi **McANUFF**	(34) 09.11.81	Leyton Orient (Eng)
22	Garath **McCLEARY**	(29) 15.05.87	Reading (Eng)
11	Andrew **VANZIE**	(25) 26.11.90	Humble Lions
15	Je-Vaughn **WATSON**	(32) 22.10.83	New England Rev USA)
16	Lee **WILLIAMSON**	(33) 07.06.82	Blackburn Rovers (Eng)

FORWARDS

9	Giles **BARNES**	(27) 05.08.88	Houston Dynamo (USA)
8	Clayton **DONALDSON**	(32) 07.02.84	Birmingham City (Eng)
6	Dever **ORGILL**	(26) 08.03.90	Mariehamn (Fin)
14	Allan **OTTEY**	(23) 18.12.92	Montego Bay United

COACH

Winfried **SCHAFER** (Ger) (66) 10.01.50

MEXICO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jesus **CORONA**	(35) 26.01.81	Cruz Azul
13	Guillermo **OCHOA**	(30) 13.07.85	Malaga (Spa)
12	Alfredo **TALAVERA**	(33) 18.09.82	Toluca

DEFENDERS

22	Paul **AGUILAR**	(30) 06.03.86	America
2	Nestor **ARAUJO**	(24) 21.08.91	Santos Laguna
3	Yasser **CORONA**	(28) 28.07.87	Queretaro
7	Miguel **LAYUN**	(27) 25.06.88	Porto (Por)
4	Rafael **MARQUEZ**	(37) 13.02.79	Atlas
15	Hector **MORENO**	(28) 17.01.88	PSV (Hol)
5	Diego **REYES**	(23) 19.09.92	Porto (Por)
6	Jorge **TORRES NILO**	(28) 16.01.88	Tigres

MIDFIELDERS

11	Javier **AQUINO**	(26) 11.02.90	Tigres
20	Jesus **DUENAS**	(27) 16.03.89	Tigres
18	Andres **GUARDADO**	(29) 28.09.86	PSV (Hol)
16	Hector **HERRERA**	(26) 19.04.90	Porto (Por)
23	Jesus **MOLINA**	(28) 29.03.88	Santos Laguna
21	Carlos **PENA**	(26) 25.03.90	Guadalajara
17	Candido **RAMIREZ**	(22) 05.06.93	Monterrey

FORWARDS

10	Jesus **CORONA**	(23) 06.01.93	Porto (Por)
14	Javier **HERNANDEZ**	(28) 01.06.88	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
9	Raul **JIMENEZ**	(25) 05.05.91	Benfica (Por)
8	Hirving **LOZANO**	(20) 30.07.95	Pachuca
19	Oribe **PERALTA**	(32) 12.01.84	America

COACH

Juan Carlos **OSORIO** (Col) (54) 08.06.61

PANAMA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Jose **CALDERON**	(30) 14.08.85	Platense (Hon)
1	Jaime **PENEDO**	(34) 26.09.81	Saprissa (CR)
12	Alex **RODRIGUEZ**	(26) 08.05.90	San Francisco

DEFENDERS

23	Felipe **BALOY**	(35) 24.02.81	Atlas (Mex)
3	Harold **CUMMINGS**	(24) 03.01.92	Alajuelense (CR)
4	Fidel **ESCOBAR**	(21) 09.01.95	Sporting San Miguelito
15	Martin **GOMEZ**	(26) 23.01.90	San Francisco
17	Luis **HENRIQUEZ**	(34) 23.11.81	Tauro
13	Adolfo **MACHADO**	(31) 14.02.85	Saprissa (CR)
5	Roderick **MILLER**	(24) 04.03.92	San Francisco

MIDFIELDERS

18	Ricardo **BUITRAGO**	(30) 10.03.86	Juan Aurich (Per)
2	Miguel **CAMARGO**	(23) 09.05.93	Mineros de Guayana (Ven)
11	Armando **COOPER**	(28) 26.11.87	Arabe Unido
20	Anibal **GODOY**	(26) 10.02.90	San Jose E'quakes (USA)
6	Gabriel **GOMEZ**	(32) 29.05.84	Herediano (CR)
21	Amilcar **HENRIQUEZ**	(32) 02.08.83	America de Cali (Col)
14	Valentin **PIMENTEL**	(25) 30.05.91	La Equidad (Col)
19	Alberto **QUINTERO**	(28) 18.12.87	Lobos BUAP (Mex)

FORWARDS

16	Abdiel **ARROYO**	(22) 13.12.93	RNK Split (Cro)
9	Roberto **NURSE**	(32) 16.12.83	Sinaloa (Mex)
7	Blas **PEREZ**	(35) 13.03.81	Vancouver W'caps (USA)
10	Luis **TEJADA**	(34) 28.03.82	Juan Aurich (Per)
8	Gabriel **TORRES**	(27) 31.10.88	Zamora (Ven)

COACH

Hernan Dario **GOMEZ** (Col) (60) 03.02.56

PARAGUAY

GOALKEEPERS

22	Diego **BARRETO**	(34) 16.07.81	Olimpia
12	Antony **SILVA**	(32) 27.02.84	Cerro Porteno
1	Justo **VILLAR**	(38) 30.06.77	Colo Colo (Chl)

DEFENDERS

20	Victor **AYALA**	(28) 01.01.88	Lanus (Arg)
2	Fabian **BALBUENA**	(24) 23.08.91	Corinthians (Bra)
14	Paulo **DA SILVA**	(36) 01.02.80	Toluca (Mex)
3	Gustavo **GOMEZ**	(23) 06.05.93	Lanus (Arg)
4	Ivan **PIRIS**	(27) 10.03.89	Udinese (Ita)
6	Miguel **SAMUDIO**	(29) 24.08.86	America (Mex)
5	Bruno **VALDEZ**	(23) 06.10.92	Cerro Porteno

MIDFIELDERS

16	Celso **ORTIZ**	(27) 26.01.89	AZ (Hol)
23	Robert **PIRIS DA MOTTA**	(21) 26.07.94	Olimpia
13	Blas **RIVEROS**	(18) 16.04.98	Olimpia
8	Rodrigo **ROJAS**	(28) 09.04.88	Cerro Porteno
21	Oscar **ROMERO**	(23) 04.07.92	Racing (Arg)

FORWARDS

7	Jorge **BENITEZ**	(23) 02.09.92	Cruz Azul (Mex)
9	Antonio **SANABRIA**	(20) 04.03.96	Roma (Ita)
10	Derlis **GONZALEZ**	(22) 23.03.94	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
11	Edgar **BENITEZ**	(28) 08.11.87	Queretaro (Mex)
15	Juan **ITURBE**	(22) 04.06.93	Roma (Ita)
17	Miguel **ALMIRON**	(22) 13.11.93	Lanus (Arg)
18	Nelson **VALDEZ**	(32) 28.11.83	Seattle Sounders (USA)
19	Dario **LEZCANO**	(25) 30.06.90	Ingolstadt (Ger)

COACH

Ramon **DIAZ** (Arg) (56) 29.08.59

PERU

Winner...Raul Ruidiaz scored the only goal against Brazil

GOALKEEPERS

23	Carlos **CACEDA**	(24) 27.09.91	Universitario
1	Pedro **GALLESE**	(26) 23.02.90	Juan Aurich
12	Diego **PENNY**	(32) 22.04.84	Sporting Cristal

DEFENDERS

17	Luis **ABRAM**	(20) 27.02.96	Sporting Cristal
22	Jair **CESPEDES**	(32) 22.05.84	Sporting Cristal
3	Aldo **CORZO**	(27) 20.05.89	Deportivo Municipal
15	Christian **RAMOS**	(27) 04.11.88	Juan Aurich
4	Renzo **REVOREDO**	(30) 11.05.86	Sporting Cristal
2	Alberto **RODRIGUEZ**	(32) 31.03.84	Sporting Cristal
6	Miguel **TRAUCO**	(23) 25.08.92	Universitario

MIDFIELDERS

14	Armando **ALFAGEME**	(25) 03.11.90	Deportivo Municipal
18	Cristian **BENAVENTE**	(22) 19.05.94	Charleroi (Blg)
5	Adan **BALBIN**	(29) 13.10.86	Universitario
7	Luiz **DA SILVA**	(19) 28.12.96	PSV (Hol)
21	Alejandro **HOHBERG**	(24) 20.09.91	Universidad Cesar Vallejo
8	Andy **POLO**	(21) 29.09.94	Internazionale (Ita)
13	Renato **TAPIA**	(20) 28.07.95	Feyenoord (Hol)
16	Oscar **VILCHEZ**	(30) 21.01.86	Alianza Lima
19	Yoshimar **YOTUN**	(26) 07.04.90	Malmo (Swe)

FORWARDS

10	Christian **CUEVA**	(24) 23.11.91	Toluca (Mex)
20	Edison **FLORES**	(22) 15.05.94	Universitario
9	Paolo **GUERRERO**	(32) 01.01.84	Flamengo (Bra)
11	Raul **RUIDIAZ**	(25) 25.07.90	Universitario

COACH

Ricardo **GARECA** (Arg) (58) 10.02.58

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS

12	Martin **CAMPANA**	(27) 29.05.89	Independiente (Arg)
1	Fernando **MUSLERA**	(29) 16.06.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
23	Martin **SILVA**	(33) 25.03.83	Vasco da Gama (Bra)

DEFENDERS

18	Mathias **CORUJO**	(30) 08.05.86	Universidad de Chile (Chl)
4	Jorge **FUCILE**	(31) 19.11.84	Nacional
2	Jose **GIMENEZ**	(21) 20.01.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
3	Diego **GODIN**	(30) 16.02.86	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
6	Alvaro **PEREIRA**	(30) 28.11.85	Estudiantes (Arg)
16	Maxi **PEREIRA**	(31) 08.06.84	Porto (Por)
19	Gaston **SILVA**	(22) 05.03.94	Torino (Ita)
13	Mauricio **VICTORINO**	(33) 11.10.82	Nacional

MIDFIELDERS

17	Egidio **AREVALO RIOS**	(34) 01.01.82	Tigres (Mex)
20	Alvaro **GONZALEZ**	(31) 29.10.84	Atlas (Mex)
7	Diego **LAXALT**	(23) 07.02.93	Internazionale (Ita)
14	Nicolas **LODEIRO**	(27) 21.03.89	Boca Juniors (Arg)
10	Gaston **RAMIREZ**	(25) 02.12.90	Southampton (Eng)
5	Carlos **SANCHEZ**	(31) 02.12.84	Monterrey (Mex)
15	Matias **VECINO**	(24) 24.08.91	Fiorentina (Ita)

FORWARDS

21	Edinson **CAVANI**	(29) 14.02.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
8	Abel **HERNANDEZ**	(25) 08.08.90	Hull City (Eng)
22	Diego **ROLAN**	(23) 24.03.93	Bordeaux (Fra)
11	Cristhian **STUANI**	(29) 10.12.86	Middlesbrough (Eng)
9	Luis **SUAREZ**	(29) 24.01.87	Barcelona (Spa)

COACH

Oscar **TABAREZ** (69) 03.03.47

USA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Brad **GUZAN**	(42) 09.09.84	Aston Villa (Eng)
22	Ethan **HORVATH**	(20) 09.06.95	Molde (Nor)
12	Tim **HOWARD**	(37) 06.03.79	Everton (Eng)

DEFENDERS

5	Matt **BESLER**	(29) 11.02.87	Sporting Kansas City
3	Steve **BIRNBAUM**	(25) 23.01.91	DC United
6	John **BROOKS**	(23) 28.01.93	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
20	Geoff **CAMERON**	(30) 11.07.85	Stoke City (Eng)
21	Edgar **CASTILLO**	(29) 08.10.86	Monterrey (Mex)
23	Fabian **JOHNSON**	(28) 11.12.87	Borussia M'gladbach (Ger)
14	Michael **OROZCO**	(30) 07.02.86	Tijuana (Mex)
2	DeAndre **YEDLIN**	(22) 09.07.93	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

15	Kyle **BECKERMAN**	(34) 23.04.82	Real Salt Lake
11	Alejandro **BEDOYA**	(29) 29.04.87	Nantes (Fra)
4	Michael **BRADLEY**	(28) 31.07.87	Toronto
13	Jermaine **JONES**	(34) 03.11.81	Colorado Rapids
16	Perry **KITCHEN**	(24) 29.02.92	Hearts (Sco)
10	Darlington **NAGBE**	(25) 19.07.90	Portland Timbers
19	Graham **ZUSI**	(29) 18.08.86	Sporting Kansas City

FORWARDS

8	Clint **DEMPSEY**	(33) 09.03.83	Seattle Sounders
17	Christian **PULISIC**	(17) 18.09.98	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
18	Chris **WONDOLOWSKI**	(33) 28.01.83	San Jose Earthquakes
7	Bobby **WOOD**	(23) 15.11.92	Hamburg (Ger)
9	Gyasi **ZARDES**	(24) 02.09.91	LA Galaxy

COACH

Jurgen **KLINSMANN** (Ger) (51) 30.07.64

VENEZUELA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jose **CONTRERAS**	(21) 20.10.94	Deportivo Tachira
23	Wuilker **FARINEZ**	(18) 15.02.98	Caracas
12	Dani **HERNANDEZ**	(30) 21.10.85	Tenerife (Spa)

DEFENDERS

2	Wilker **ANGEL**	(23) 18.03.93	Deportivo Tachira
20	Rolf **FELTSCHER**	(25) 10.06.90	Duisburg (Ger)
21	Alexander **GONZALEZ**	(23) 13.09.92	Huesca (Spa)
16	Roberto **ROSALES**	(27) 20.11.88	Malaga (Spa)
6	Jose Manuel **VELAZQUEZ**	(25) 08.09.90	Arouca (Por)
3	Mikel **VILLANUEVA**	(23) 14.04.93	Deportivo Lara
4	Oswaldo **VIZCARRONDO**	(32) 31.05.84	Nantes (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS

5	Arquimedes **FIGUERA**	(26) 06.10.89	La Guaira
15	Alejandro **GUERRA**	(30) 09.07.85	Mineros de Guayana
22	Yangel **HERRERA**	(18) 07.01.98	Atletico Venezuela
11	**JUANPI**	(22) 24.01.94	Malaga (Spa)
10	Romulo **OTERO**	(23) 09.11.92	Huachipato (Chl)
18	Adalberto **PENARANDA**	(19) 31.05.97	Watford (Eng)
8	Tomas **RINCON**	(28) 13.01.88	Genoa (Ita)
13	Luis Manuel **SEIJAS**	(29) 23.06.86	Santa Fe (Col)
14	Carlos **SUAREZ**	(24) 26.04.92	Carabobo

FORWARDS

7	Yonathan **DEL VALLE**	(26) 28.05.90	Rio Ave (Por)
17	Josef **MARTINEZ**	(23) 19.05.93	Torino (Ita)
9	Salomon **RONDON**	(26) 16.09.89	West Brom (Eng)
19	Christian **SANTOS**	(28) 24.03.88	NEC (Hol)

COACH

Rafael **DUDAMEL** (43) 07.01.73

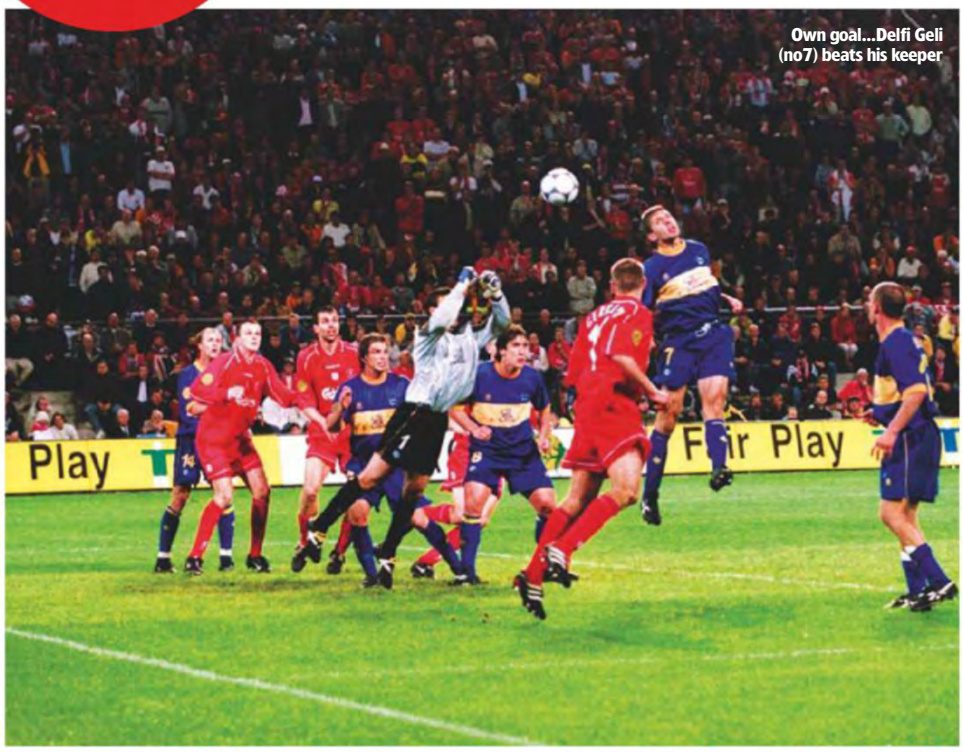
(ages as of 03.06.16)

World Soccer's GREAT MATCHES

MAY 16, 2001, DORTMUND: UEFA CUP FINAL

Liverpool 5 Alaves 4

Dramatic finale has nine goals, two red cards and a winning "golden goal" in extra time



Own goal...Delfi Geli (no7) beats his keeper

Playing in their first European Final since the Heysel disaster in 1985, Liverpool secured a memorable win in the Westfalenstadion with a dramatic extra-time "golden goal" to complete a treble of trophies for Gerard Houllier's team, who had already won the League Cup and FA Cup.

Gavin Hamilton wrote: "European Finals are not supposed to end like this. They are settled by a single goal here, a moment of individual brilliance there. Not nine goals, a golden goal, extra-time and two red cards. The Final that promised so little, delivered so much – and more."

After Liverpool took a two-goal lead in the first 17 minutes, "Mane took drastic action" explained Hamilton. "Off came defender Dan Eggen, on went forward Ivan Alonso, as Alaves burst out of their defensive shell, switching from 5-4-1 to 4-3-3 in one tactical substitution."

Five minutes later they were back in the game as Alonso scored with a header, only for a Gary McAllister penalty to restore Liverpool's two-goal advantage at half-time.

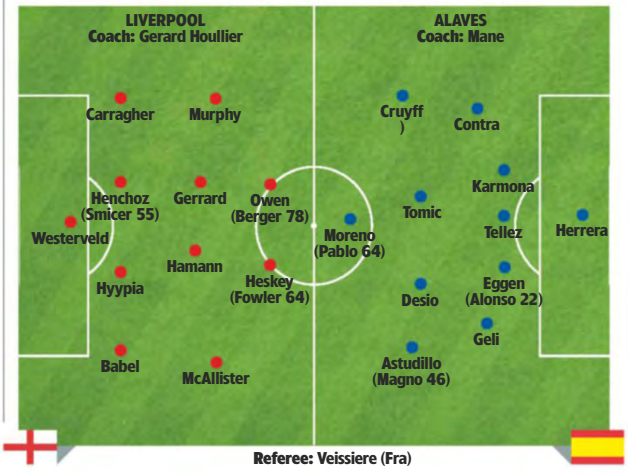
An amazing turnaround then ensued, as Hamilton continued: "Within six minutes of the restart, the scores were level. First, Cosmin Contra twisted his way past Jamie Carragher, before crossing to Javi Moreno to head home. Then Moreno cleverly placed his free-kick under the jumping defensive wall"

Treble...Gerard Houllier

Each team scored again in the last 20 minutes, sending the game into "golden goal" extra-time, in which the next goal would be the winner.

Alaves then had two players sent off, and from the free-kick that had been awarded as a result of the second red card, the unfortunate Delfi Geli glanced a header past his own goalkeeper.

As Hamilton concluded in his report: "It was a cruel, cruel way for the Alaves fairy tale to end." WS



Referee: Veissiere (Fra)

KEY MOMENTS

Ahead...Markus Babbel (in red) scores the first

3min Gary McAllister floats over a free-kick and Markus Babbel rises to head home. **1-0**

17min Michael Owen lays off a pass to the on-running Steven Gerrard, who fires a low shot into the net. **2-0**

27min Cosmin Contra crosses to the far post where Ivan Alonso heads past Sander Westerveld. **2-1**

40min Owen is brought down by goalkeeper Martin Herrera and McAllister scores from the penalty spot. **3-1**

Pen...Gary McAllister

48min Contra crosses for Javi Moreno to head beyond keeper Westerveld. **3-2**

51min Moreno strikes a free-kick under the jumping Liverpool wall to level the scores. **3-3**

73min Robbie Fowler cuts inside and places a shot past Herrera. **4-3**

89min Jordi Cruyff meets Pablo's corner and heads into the net. **4-4**

99min Substitute Magno receives a second yellow card for a late tackle on Babbel and is sent off.

116min Antonio Karmona sees red after a second offence of pulling back Vladimir Smicer.

117min From the resulting free-kick, McAllister's cross clips the head of Alaves' Delfi Geli, deflecting it past Herrera for an own goal. **5-4**

Equaliser...Alaves' Jordi Cruyff (no 14)

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